FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LA PRENSA SEES BIGNONE BEING OUSTED SOON

PY172139 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Sep 82 pp 1, 6

[J. Iglesias Rouco commentary: "Probable Relief of the President"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday General Bignone denied persistent rumors which have circulated recently in Buenos Aires about the possible resignation of government officials and about "uneasiness" within the armed forces. The truth is that the country is going through a state of growing unrest and people even think that Bignone will not be able to stay in his post too much longer despite his very commendable intention of being the "last" de facto president. Such suppositions are obviously not only based on the fact that there are other military officers who harbor similar ambitions, but on objective facts. Price controls, for example, have not been the only recently adopted measure that has been ill-fated, as is clearly seen through the last increase in interest rates and the drop in adjustable securities. The moves and countermoves concerning the lifting of economic sanctions agreed upon with Great Britain -- which we see as the first step toward a formal end of hostilities -- have not succeeded in clearing the government's image, either within or, much less, beyond our borders. We can say the same thing about how the Beagle issue has been handled. And there will be a lot more in the next few days. The P-2 lodge is, after all, Argentine.

But in addition to suppositions, the author of this article has enough proof to predict that General Bignone is very likely (chances are 70 to 80 percent) to have to hand over power to the army commander in chief or to another military officer, although it is not known whether this will take place within days or weeks, but it will happen before the end of the year. Even further, some top-ranking army officers have reportedly already made a decision on this matter, and the navy and air force chiefs may already be aware of such a decision because the continuity of Bignone in power is sure to have been given careful attention by those who have reconstituted the military junta. As far as we know, union leaders and some experienced politicians are already making their estimates on the basis of such a possibility, which may be closely related to the strikes called for by the CGT-Brasil [General Labor Confederation headquartered on Brasil Street] for today and by its counterpart headquartered on Azopardo Street for next week. At least this time the government was sharp enough to point out that the strike has, apparently, implications "outside labor unions."

We say there is a 70 to 80 percent possibility that he will be relieved either at the end of this month, in November or December. Based on the "categorical denial" from the president, we feel that the above figure should be 85 percent (if Government House or the armed forces headquarters believe we are wrong, they can always resort to their "rumors," or new "categorical denials," although we think that this time they will remain silent). We also maintain that if the relief takes place -- and it should be noted that we are talking about 70 to 80 percent and not 100 percent, as was the case when Viola was dismissed -- it will not mean an interruption of the process of rapprochement with the United States and of peace with Great Britain, which the Bignone administration has been pushing ahead since July. On the contrary, the army commander in chief fully shares, according to our sources, such a policy and may even be willing to give additional support to it. This, at least, is the way Washington and London see things.

As far as we know, to relieve the president would not interrupt the electoral process either. However, something else could happen here; namely, the postponement of the elections to a later date. Such a decision, which should have the approval of the navy and air force -- approval which would require previous concurrence from the parties -- will obviously furnish some justification for the president's replacement.

We felt somewhat sorry when we wrote this article. Although we visited him only once yesterday at Government House, we have always considered General Bignone to be one of the most good-natured leaders produced by this regime. We also believe that his determination to investigate the activities of the P-2 lodge in Argentina is commendable. In this regard, Bignone's actions -- which have the full support of General Nicolaides and other commanders -- have reportedly been spurred by a visit that some representatives of individuals supposedly linked to the Italian lodge may have paid him with the obvious purpose of sparking interest in an investigation that has been too quiet for too long. According to our sources, Bignone, who was very upset by this "affaire," may have already ordered the prosecutors to ask the judge hearing the case in Milan for detailed information. Also, a commission made up of officers from the three branches is reportedly ready to travel to Italy to gather more information. Apparently the president and the commanders are particularly interested in finding out the true scope of the P-2 lodge links attributed to Admiral Massera, General Suarez Mason and three other people.

In addition, we have learned that alleged P-2 lodge representatives have recently engaged in unfriendly actions against certain commanders, among them, Nicolaides himself. This offensive, or counteroffensive, will surely be very healthy for national public life.

Report Denied

PY171504 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1254 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Sep (TELAM) -- In response to a question concerning a report published by a Buenos Aires morning newspaper that General Bignone would leave the presidency, presidential spokesman Eduardo Maschwitz said today that at no time has the President thought about either resigning or leaving, and that what he does think about is that he is Argentina's last de facto president. He added that the president has said that he wants to reach democracy through democratic practice, and this means to learn to read and listen to reports without having to deny them even though we know they are false and despite the fact that we may dislike them.

Maschwitz said: "General Bignone believes that democracy is the coexistence of different or opposed ideas, and that therefore, the most absolute press freedom prevails in our country and each person has the right to express his ideas without any censorship." He remarked that those rumors are not worth denying because if we do so whenever rumors circulate, we may lose credibility.

Talking to Radio Rivadavia, Maschwitz said that the president is calm, working for the country and for meeting his objective of handing over power by March 1984 to the authorities elected prior to that date.

STATE OF SIEGE NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL 1983

PY181543 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1720 GMT 16 Sep 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (DYN) -- The state of siege will not be lifted until next year after those detaines at the disposal of the executive branch have been released "and the maintenance of security conditions have been consolidated," high-ranking government sources announced today. The sources said the usefulness of decreeing an amnesty law is still under study and that the policy of expediting the release of those arrested for political or union-related issues will be decided on case by case. Political sectors will be consulted concerning the scope of the law, but not timetable has yet been prepared to initiate these contacts, the sources added.

Commenting on the lifting of exceptional measures, the sources said that the respective decision will be directly related to solving the situation of those detainees who have not stood trial and to confirming that security conditions are maintained, which is being done now.

The sources also expressed the belief that by the time constitutional rights are restored, most political parties will have completed their reorganization.

ADMIRAL BUSSER NAMED CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF

PY171850 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] Rear Adm Carlos Alberto Cesar Busser has been named chief of the joint staff. He will take the oath of office at a ceremony to be held next Monday to be presided over by Navy Commander in Chief Adm Jorge Isaac Anaya.

Admiral Busser will replace Vice Adm Leopoldo Suarez Selo Cerro, who has retired. The ceremony will be held at the joint staff building and will be attended by the chiefs of staff of the three services and by a delegation of senior officers.

MINISTER WEHBE OUTLINES ECONOMIC PACKAGE

PY172234 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0130 GMT 16 Sep 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (TELAM) -- Tonight, Economics Minister Jorge Wehbe announced an economic package, which includes, among other measures, the fixing of maximum prices for bread and milk, the rationing of fuels and beef, the establishing of a tax moratorium and the granting of preferential credit lines, as well as tariff increases and the reactivation of public works. During a press conference Wehbe granted at the end of an almost 2-hour-long cabinet meeting, he announced a series of complementary measures that were adopted during the meeting. These measures are complementary to the previously adopted measures.

A group of the measures announced by Wehbe is aimed at regulating the eventual increases in the prices of foodstuffs, beginning with the fixing of maximum prices for bread and milk. Regarding the bread price, the economy minister stated that the price of bread will be fixed at 19,000 pesos per kilogram with no deadline for changing it since, he said, this price can either increase or drop in accordance with the behavior of the price of wheat on the international market. The current price of milk, which Wehbe did not specify, will be maintained until the end of the year. However, the maximum price will be restricted to regular milk and will not be implemented on special milks.

Similarly, Wehbe announced that a meat ban has been ordered in restaurants on Thursdays and Fridays for the purpose of controlling the excessive increase in beef prices. Wehbe admitted that the increase in beef prices is a result of the drop in beef stock. This measure was adopted taking into consideration the time it will take to attain recovery in this field, for which purpose incentives will be granted to beef producers.

In keeping with this policy, rationing has also been ordered on fuel consumption. Wehbe said that the energy secretariat will implement this rationing within the next few days and that the procedure is likely to be one of the usual ones such as the ban on the sale of fuels for 1 or 2 days a week.

A further increase in the price of fuels and electricity rates will be ordered simultaneously with the fuel rationing. These increases, Wehbe said, will be implemented in proportion to consumption so that as in the case of electricity rates, the increase will not affect the family consumers who use less electricity, or will affect them as little as possible.

Wehbe said that this matter will be decided tomorrow, Thursday, "because it has been impossible to do so today." He also disclosed that "with the exception of fuels," any future adjustments to the tax policy will be done in such a way that there will be no difference between the requirements that private and public enterprise will have to fulfill.

Also seeking to curb the increase in inflation, the economy minister announced that the value added tax on foodstuffs and medicines will be reduced by 4 percent, from its current level of 12 percent to only 8 percent. The minister indicated that this is specifically aimed at medicines, where the effects of this reduction will be felt in full because the prices of medicines are under official control.

After making this announcement, Wehbe emphasized that these measures are part of an overall plan based on the need to avoid harming the enterprises or affecting their profits because "we understand that they need these profits, especially at times when we want to reactivate the economy." After reiterating that "we not only do not want recession, but are also interested in bringing about reactivation," the economy minister pointed out that a balance had to be achieved between alleviating the situation of certain sectors of the population and protecting the income of the enterprises.

In this regard, he announced the implementation of a installment plan for paying tax debts, a veritable moratorium which according to him will apply to all tax debts pending on 31 August. This moratorium will be applied together with a reduction of compensatory and penalty interests that the state collects.

Concerning taxation, minimum tax-exempt earnings of dependent workers falling within the fourth category of the income tax will be raised and the tax on enterprises' benefits will be lowered on 1 January 1983.

Pursuant to the intent of achieving rapid economic reactivation, the economy minister announced that special lines of personal credit at low interest rates will be granted for covering consumption and housing expenses. These lines of credit, the minister added, will be implemented soon with a view to the adoption of a practical system that will avoid the problems which are likely to arise when large numbers of applications are submitted to banks. Therefore, he said, a mechanism has been adopted, although it has not been defined in detail yet. It could be implemented "through enterprises granting credits to their personnel," he explained.

Public investment will also be reactivated, taking into account its multiplying effects and in order to create jobs. The minister added that further details will be available next week.

Upon concluding with the announcements, Wehbe referred in detail to some subjects related to the economic plan currently in force. He made special reference to the exchange policy, the objective of which, Wehbe remarked, "is to unify the exchange rate." Wehbe termed this unification an imperative objective (?of the present administration). He stated, however, that the unification of the exchange rate cannot be done abruptly, since it would cause a sudden hike in prices. He said that a price control mechanism has been implemented in order to prevent the aforementioned situation from arising.

Upon refusing to report on whether a future exchange plan has already been drawn up since, he said, "the exchange policy is a secret of the state," Wehbe reasserted that the announced [words indistinct] of farming products will not be implemented. However, he said that they have promised to maintain the real level of the exchange rate.

Wehbe concluded by referring to the international negotiations Argentina is carrying out regarding its foreign debt. He said that Argentina will resort to the IMF if needed, but that it will do so with the necessary consensus. He said that the Argentine people must be aware that the country's future is involved and that the country's situation is a very serious one. Regarding the necessary consensus for resorting to the IMF, the economy minister said that talks ought to be held at various levels, and not just with the political sectors. He said that all representative forces, all those who really represent the people's interests, ought to be convened.

Argentina, the minister stressed, "is able to pay its legal debts and it has the possibility of reaching an agreement that will put an end to its problems. Many errors have been committed because overdue foreign debts have been left to accumulate," but, Wehbe reasserted, "Argentina is a solvent and reliable country."

To a question that was put to him regarding the alleged existence of fictitious private foreign debts totalling $8 million, Wehbe said that it might be true and that a study will be conducted on the private foreign debt for the purpose of verifying that rumor.

HERALD Opposed to Package

PY172353 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Sep 82 p 10

[Editorial: "Merry-go-round"]

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe's latest batch of measures will have come as a relief to those who feared the country's economy was going to be run by the International Monetary Fund. Having started by freezing the prices of goods produced by relatively large industrial firms he has now gone and frozen the prices of such staples as bread and milk. In addition to this he has reduced a number of taxes and promised easier credits, not just for farm producers but also for would-be-house-owners as well. All of this is, of course, directly contrary to the usual IMF recommendations that price controls be scrapped and the cost of credit determined by the market and not by some government using social or political criteria to decide on a figure. About the only items in Wednesday's packet that would have met the approval of the IMF were the price increases for fuels and electricity, even though the increases ordered will fall far short of what the IMF would consider necessary.

It may seem churlish to be sceptical about such kind-hearted measures as price ceilings for bread and milk, soft loans for deserving people like farmers and those who dream of owning a home, and tax reductions, all of which are manifestly desirable in themselves. But, unfortunately, economics is not a game that brings rewards to ministers with a social conscience and punishes individuals indifferent to the sufferings of the man in the street. The economy takes no notice of its managers' intentions and responds only to hard facts and, unless the statistics are lying and the country's state is far better than most people think the effect of Wehbe's impromptu budget will be to make it worse and not better. With inflation as high as it is the government must try to align its expenditure with its income, but Wehbe's measures, cutting some taxes and easing credit terms, will have the reverse effect, thus decreasing its ability to "reactive public investment to provide more jobs" by any means other than speeding up the already wildly spinning printing presses, a tactic whose limitations should be evident by now and whose unhappy side effects are felt most painfully by the worst-off.

Ever since the departure of Dr Roberto Alemann the government seems to have been under the impression that it can outrun inflation because inflation, if skilfully applied, can generate growth, which will in turn improve the country's trade balance "saving currency by increasing the rate of economic growth." If experience is anything to go by, however, this is sheer wishful thinking. It would, of course, be a far better world if this were not so, if those who looked on the positive side of things and concentrated on adapting the economy to the social situation and not the other way around came out ahead. But in the world we, and Wehbe, live in this pleasant state of affairs does not seem to prevail.

MILITARY COMMANDERS TO CONVENE 1980 CONGRESS

PY171243 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The armed forces of the nation have decided to convene the 1980 congress in order to pave the way for the installation of a constitutional government to face the serious political, socioeconomic crisis the country has been experiencing.

In today's edition, the morning newspaper PRESENCIA under a full page headline carries the following report: The armed forces last night decided to convene the 1980 congress to allow for the installation of a constitutional government which would enable the country to overcome the political, socioeconomic crisis, which has worsened in recent weeks.

The decision was made at a meeting of commanders of large and small units and institues of the armed forces which has been in session since Wednesday at the Miraflores headquarters. The junta of commanders informed the Gen Guido Vildoso government of this military decision during a meeting held last night at the San Jorge presidential residence which was also attended by cabinet members.

A message of the armed forces will be broadcast today to the nation to give details of the decision made by the armed forces for the sake of the nation. All Bolivians will be urged to support this decision to achieve unity and progress once and for all. The message, which will be broadcast over the radio and television network, will be probably broadcast at noon.

The military meeting held at Miraflores decided to convene the 1980 congress after a long, intensive debate among garrison commanders, who proposed several alternate solutions to the political, socioeconomic crisis. A faction persisted today on having the armed forces retain power based on the need to preserve order to guarantee normal productive activities. It also contended that an immediate opening, without the appropriate conditions, could again lead the nation into chaos and anarchy and could endanger the armed forces. These claims were overruled in the light of the extremely serious economic and political situation, which could continue to undermine the image of the armed forces and the country's stability.

Those who advocate a constitutional solution as soon as possible made reference to a report received last Wednesday by the commanders from the Vildoso cabinet outlining a political, socioeconomic situation requiring immediate solutions.

The discussions, which began at 0800 at the third department of the army staff, lasted until approximately 2000 and became tense at times, particularly in the wake of the Bolivian Labor Federation's decision to call an indefinite general strike. The workers' decision prompted renewed contentions about the need to preserve order. Yet an agreement was finally reached to convene the 1980 congress and to immediately inform the government of the decision. This was done a few minutes later.

The members of the junta of commanders, Air Force Commander Natalio Morales and Navy Commander Oscar Pammo, and Gen Simon Cejas, chief of staff of the High Command, went to the San Jorge residence to inform President Vildoso of the armed forces' decision.

Communique Issued

PY172346 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 2305 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Relay by Daniel Alarcon from the Miraflores area in La Paz]

[Text] Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. A few minutes ago [words indistinct] the Bolivian Armed Forces communique. This communique confirms the information provided by Panamericana at 1630 this afternoon.

Following is the text of the communique:

Miraflores Garrison, 17 September 1982.

The Bolivian Armed Forces, as the guardian institution of the fatherland, observing the institutional mandate, took over the nation's leadership in order to accomplish the country's main objective of democratizing the country and attaining a state of law by implenting an internal policy marked by flexibility and a continuous dialogue with the political, economic and social forces of the country. The armed forces have returned their rights and constitutional guarantees to the people, has lifted the ban on political and labor union activities, fully enforced university autonomy, granted freedom of speech and respect for human rights and has granted a general and unrestricted amnesty in order to adequately implement the democratization process with concrete and honest measures.

The document continues: However, unfortunately, this policy was misunderstood by some sectors and by some people who are not interested in seeing a solution found to the problems the country is experiencing. The economic, political and social crisis were intentionally and skillfully orchestrated for the purpose of preventing or hindering this process, the armed forces document says.

The armed forces document continues: In view of this situation, which posed a threat to the people and to the country's security, the armed forces have decided at the conclusion of a meeting of commanders of large and small military institutions to convene the 1980 congress after having complied with the pertinent legal rules that the constitution provides for this process. This measure has been taken as an adequate solution to the present situation, which originated in the past. This decision reveals complete unselfishness, a high spirit of patriotism and a firm institutional desire for preserving national unity.

The armed forces communique concludes: However, on adopting this decision, the armed forces warn that sectarian ambitions and irresponsible actions will not be allowed to hinder the implementation of the aforegoing measure.

[Released by] Public Relations Department of the Armed Forces Headquarters.

That was the exact text of the document released a few minutes ago at the Miraflores Garrison by the junta of commanders. The document was delivered by Gen Natalio Morales Mosquera.

When Panamericana asked Gen Natalio Morales Mosquera about reports received from Sucre that a military zone had allegedly been declared, he said that the joint command of the armed forces had not made such a decision, and explained that only the security forces had taken action. This was done in order to preserve order and peace in the capital of the republic in view of a series of public actions which were about to take place in that city. This was the explanation which Gen Natalio Morales Mosquera gave to Radio Panamericana.

At present, the ministers are meeting at Government House. Gen Guido Vildoso Calderon is studying the contents of the document which was delivered by the junta of commanders at the end of the meeting held by the commanders of the largest units and military institutes. We will broadcast more information whenever it becomes available. This was Panamericana's report.

Vildoso Address to Nation

PY180340 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0138 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Speech to the nation by President Guido Vildoso Calderon from the Hall of Mirrors at Government House in La Paz -- live]

[Text] Bolivian people. When I took charge of the government, in keeping with the mandate of the armed forces of the nation, I and my assistants undertook as a patriotic and indispensable duty the task of maintaining and expanding the process toward political opening in a frank way with a view to attaining the unity that the Bolivian people need in order to attain a future of hope.

To this effect, the government of transition that I am heading worked for two main objectives: the quest for solutions to the economic crisis which burdens the people of Bolivia and the preparation of tools which will permit an electoral outcome scheduled for 24 April 1983.

We have maintained a political dialogue with the main sectors of the country. This dialogue has been extremely valuable for orienting our formal actions and for tackling the alternatives that the dynamics of our internal politics might possibly have.

Similarly, an emergency economic plan was drawn up. However, implementating this plan behind the backs of the people was never intended, as some people thought and others even contended. This is by no means true. In keeping with our desire for attaining democracy, we also held an economic dialogue during which we outlined in an honest and clean fashion the critical financial and economic crisis the country is currently experiencing and the solutions that might resolve it. This is the truth and only the truth. The emergency economic plan has been intended as something to be imposed on the people or as the raison d'etre of this government. It was carefully and conscientiously drawn up, but it has never been intended as something to be imposed on the people.

For this reason, there is no room for speaking of rejecting the emergency economic plan, because this plan has been introduced to all sectors of public opinion.

In the political fields, the main parties have supported the constituting of the National Electoral Court, which is currently in full operation.

The government has complied with the essential aspects of the armed forces' mandate. As captain general of the armed forces, I deemed advisable the calling of a meeting of commanders of large units and of military institutes of the armed forces in order to review the alternatives of the work carried out by the government and to analyze the claims made by people through political parties and through social, business and labor union groups.

This is the government of the armed forces, so I had to know the armed forces' views and, in keeping with the legitimate expectations of the people, I had to study which actions had to be taken immediately. Among the suggestions that I submitted for the consideration of my fellow partners was the alternative of convening the congress elected in the 1980 elections. This was one of the most valid of the alternatives for attaining national unity and the return to democratic institutions.

The armed forces, through a document which is public knowledge and signed by the commanding generals of the three forces, have entrusted the government which I preside over with granting the National Electoral Court the necessary authorities to conclude the post-electoral phase of the 1980 elections. Once this phase is concluded, the national congress will be convened so that according to the terms of the political constitution of the state, the president and vice president of the republic can be appointed. These officials will assume their constitutional term as of the day on which the government of the armed forces hands over power as soon as the congress elects the future two persons who will govern.

Bolivians: The armed forces, your government, has fulfilled its duties toward the people. We believe we have interpreted the national feeling and all we desire is peace, harmony and the full exercise of the state's powers and basic rights.

In the shortest term possible, the government of transition which I preside over, through a supreme decree which will comply with all the formalities aimed at convening the honoral congress which was elected in 1980, will disclose the legal norms which will make feasible the definite process for the return to constitutionality.

These immediate steps to be taken once again show the democratic philosophy which has inspired my government; together with the firm decision of the armed forces to transfer political power to the legitimate representatives of the people and then voluntarily withdraw to the specific and constitutional functions belonging to the armed institution.

I wish to firmly state that this is an autonomous decision by the armed forces and not the result of any type of pressure. I repeat that it is a mature, well thought over decision, a result of the national reality and the interpretation of the people's feelings, but it is not particularly imposed by anybody. In view of the firmness of our decisions, it is my patriotic duty to tell you this, dear fellow citizens, so that it will be quite clear that the armed forces are responsibile for this decision, which is significant for the Bolivian nation.

Because of this, I fervently point out the need to maintain unity, to give up attitudes which harm national unity and which are contrary to the philosophy of work and effort to which all us Bolivians must commit ourselves in order to overcome this profound crisis. We have all the elements: education, territory, (?vast) natural resources, a privileged geography, creative talent. All we need now is a joint effort of will in order to definitely bury discord, to unite and to give the republic stability. Bolivia urgently needs order, stability and the functioning of its institutions in order to project itself toward its future in the international community so that we may offer our children a future full of hope, as I have already stated before.

The armed forces guarantee the enforcement of the democratic system and will loyally support the future constitutional government and voluntarily hand over political power of the nation according to the armed forces' express desire and conviction. Therefore, the urgent need to start, as of the first day of next week, a new phase of harmonious dialogue, work and a true social truce.

The government of the armed forces that I preside over will make every effort to quickly bring this stage of transition to an end; something we wish to do peacefully and with full guarantees and calm for the people in order to demonstrate to the world that we Bolivians are capable of uniting and of setting an example of wisdom and sensibility.

Therefore, I wish to repeat my patriotic call to all those sectors, to all those organizations which have, justified or not, adopted a position of wrath, to forget that type of attitude. I ask this of you: Let us all work together for our dear Bolivia. Let us make the upcoming transfer of the government a truly democratic and popular fiesta so that all events will be normal, so that there will be no rancor, so that there will be a true spiritual cleansing and so that there will be an extensive national awareness.

This is my call and my deepest feeling and I even dare to believe that a great majority shares it.

Bolivians: The hour of democracy has arrived. I ask you once again to make a joint effort. The government of the armed forces will do its part and it will do it quickly, because we wish a quick return to the constitution for Bolivia.

The next few days, which will be decisive for our future, will find us still in the government as the administrators of the executive branch, in our posts making the preparations for the return to an overall democracy. Let every Bolivian join this effort to be made by the government that I preside over.

Fellow Bolivians: Long live Bolivia!

SILES ZUAZO AGREES TO ACCEPT PRESIDENCY

PY190032 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0012 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Excerpt] La Paz, 18 Sep (EFE) -- Hernan Siles Zuazo, leader of the political leftwing coalition "Democratic and Popular Unity" (UDP) will accept the mandate of the congress to be installed to be proclaimed new president of Bolivia.

His fellow party members announced the decision in a six-point document in which they underline "the legitimacy of his mandate," in view of the fact that they won the 1980 general elections. They underscore that by virture of this decision of the people, "the UDP will never renounce that mandate and will defend it."

They note that they party, once it is in power, will establish "a democratic, popular and anti-imperialist platform."

The leaders of the UDP, which is comprised of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the left (MNRI), the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB), noted that the mandate to be assumed by their government "will be subject to the needs of the people."

They urged the pertinent entities to accelerate the transfer of power to their front, through the 1980 congress, and warned that a delay in the political solution could further deepen the crisis. Finally, they warn the Bolivian people and their democratic organizations to be alert to prevent any tampering that subverts the popular will.

To Return Shortly

PY171536 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] Hernan Siles Zuazo, top leader of the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] will return to Bolivia shortly, according to one of the leaders of this organization (Mario Velarde Dourado). The source indicated that the Executive Board of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI) has decided that Siles Zuazo should return and that apparently the leader has conveyed from Lima his willingness to comply with this decision.

The former Bolivian president will thus return to Bolivia after approximately 2 years of absence.

UDP Response

PY182304 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2151 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] La Paz, 18 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) today accepted the convening of the 1980 congress as the means for reestablishing the state of law in the country.

During a press conference, leaders of the three political parties which make up this political coalition -- which received the largest votes in the 1980 general elections -- said, however, that this congress must confirm the Hernan Siles Zuazo-Jaime Zamora ticket as the expression of the popular will for president and vice president of Bolivia.

In a joint document, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left (MNRI), the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) and the Communist Party of Bolivia (PCB) said that the UDP, on taking over the responsibility of coming to power, is doing so without boasting.

LA PAZ POLICE TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT DISORDERS

PY171852 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The office of the commander of the Bolivian police has issued a severe warning to those who try to disrupt the existing order. After conducting sporadic check-ups in various areas of the capital city, the police withdrew to their barracks and remain on alert.

A unit was sent up to the building of the internal revenue department after being notified that leaders of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] had tried to force the employees of this department to leave their posts. The police gassed [as heard] the entire area and managed to break up groups of persons who were trying to create disorders. Later on, the police went to the Finance Ministry to stop COB leaders from disrupting the normal activities at that ministry.

In view of all these events, the office of the police commander has warned that military actions are undertaken only to prevent disruptions of order. It was also emphasized that these operations will be extremely severe, and that all the means necessary to repress disturbances are available.

Employees Protest Harassment

PY171542 La Paz Cadena Panamerican in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The employees of the Labor and Labor Development Ministry have declared a state of emergency in view of the harassment and threats to which they are being constantly subjected, according to a communique that they have sent to this station. Herewith is text of the communique:

The Executive Board of the Labor and Labor Development Ministry employees union wishes to inform the people in general that on 16 September the employees of this ministry were once again harassed and threatened by armed paramilitary individuals entrenched in this ministry. These persons prevented us from complying with the order to strike issued by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB].

In view of this, the employees of this ministry are hereby asked to comply with the 48-hour strike that the COB has decreed.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON TERRORISTS, STRIKES

PY171537 La Paz Cadena Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] If a nationwide indefinite general strike is the solution to the crisis, it will be up to the people to make the final decision, Interior Minister Col Edgar Rojas Ruiz said yesterday. When the journalists accredited to the Interior Ministry asked him about the terrorist attacks that took place recently, the interior minister said that the appropriate investigations have been ordered.

[Begin Rojas recording] In this regard, we would like to make it clear that the armed forces government is not in favor of these vandalous acts regardless of the ideology that may prompt them, and all security agents have been instructed to arrest those involved in those deeds, which go against moral standards and human dignity. [end recording]

Later the interior minister said that solutions to Bolivia's current problems are being sought and stressed that it is very important to have a realistic approach. [Begin Rojas recording] We are all looking for the best solution to the problems of the Bolivian people. The important thing is to be aware of the way things really are. [end recording]

Minister Rojas was also asked about his opinion of the indefinite general strike spreading throughout the nation. [Begin Rojas recording] If a nationwide indefinite general strike is the proper way to pull the nation out of the crisis, it will be up to the people to make the final decision, right? [end recording]

GOVERNMENT DECLARES COB STRIKES ILLEGAL

PY171533 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The government has termed illegal and arbitrary the strike that the Bolivian Labor Federation decreed yesterday asking that power be turned over to the winners of the 1980 elections.

Labor and labor development minister, Col Julio Villa Gomez Vargas, stated yesterday that the illegal and arbitrary strike stated by the COB is a contradictory reaction to the critical economic situation that the nation is experiencing. He said that the Bolivian people are well aware of the government's desire to democratize the nation. We have held a political and an economic dialogue in an atmosphere of frankness and openness with all the representative sectors of the nation, he added.

Further on, he indicated that the government will continue its efforts because its objective is unity, coexistence and productive toil for all Bolivians.

COB Response

PA190121 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0102 GMT 19 Sep 82

[By Juan Javier Zeballos]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 18 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- The decision of the armed forces to redemocratize Bolivia by convoking the 1980 congress, which was accepted today by the leading political force, made the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) conditionally call off the general strike which paralyzed the country since yesterday. In a meeting of national leaders, the COB decided today to call a "fourth intermission" in the national strike, conditioning its definite suspension to the designation by the congress to be installed of Hernan Siles Zuazo and Jaime Paz Zamora as constitutional president and vice president of Bolivia.

If the congress does not elect that ticket which obtained the majority vote in the 1980 elections as candidates of the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP), the COB will resume the general strike, its foremost leader Juan Lechin Oquendo stated.

ARMED FORCES OCCUPY SUCRE 17 SEPTEMBER

PY172201 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2113 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] La Paz, 17 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- The armed forces and the police force today occupied the city of Sucre, capital of Bolivia, in order to prevent a people's assembly, according to residents of this city who were contacted by phone. According to the sources, army troops also took over the radio stations of the city and arrested several people, among whom are the leaders of Chuquisaca Department (province) civic committee. Sucre is the capital of this department.

The civic committee, together with those of Potosi and Tarija, ordered a general strike 5 days ago demanding that attention be paid to their development problems. The organization had called for an open mass meeting [cabildo abierto] in order to discuss the steps to be taken.

Cardinal Clemente Maurer, head of the Bolivian church -- headquartered in Sucre -- sent President Guido Vildoso a telegram yesterday in which he regretted the fact that the cabinet had not attended to the demands of the three southern departments (provinces) of the country.

Juan Lechin's Reaction

PY180112 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] The Bolivian Armed Forces have intervened in Sucre for the purpose of unblocking the roads leading to that city, according to the assertion made by Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB].

The workers' leader said that high-ranking military officers and Interior Minister Edgar Rojas Ruiz himself and provided that information to him.

In accordance with a report from that district, which is located in the southern part of the country, members of the armed forces have occupied the entire city and have been imposed press censorship.

Here is Juan Lechin's statement to Panamericana in this regard: [Begin Lechin recording] All the same, we are expecting an announcement by the government in this regard. The reports on the situation in Sucre are conflicting. Immediately after learning of this, we consulted Interior Under Secretary (Rivas) and then talked with the interior minister, both of whom told us that the armed forces had in fact intervened in order to unblock the roads leading to Sucre, where our fellow peasants were transporting their products. [end recording]

The journalists also consulted Juan Lechin on the indefinite general strike which is being observed nationwide. Lechin said that the interior minister has asked him to lift that coercive measure. Lechin stated the following on this subject: [recorded passage indistinct]

Deaths, Injuries Reported

PY180405 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0256 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] La Paz, 17 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Interior Ministry reported here tonight that the violence that took place in Sucre, capital of Bolivia, this afternoon caused four dead, one injured and several hostages. The press communique released by the ministry reported that the incidents in this city, located 400 km south of here, were caused by antisocial elements and politicians. The communique says that an officer, two drivers and an unidentified child were killed.

It also says that the antisocial elements took four policemen and 15 persons hostages, taking them outside the city, where they were tortured.

The Interior Ministry said that the incidents began when these elements ordered the blocking of roads in order to stop food supplies to the city and threatened to close the pump valves of the oil pipeline and suspend electricity services.

The ministry explained that the military garrison stationed in Sucre took the necessary measures to restore order.

Residents of the city told this agency by telephone this afternoon that the military and police forces occupied the city in the afternoon to prevent the holding of a popular assembly. The assembly was called to determine what steps to take after 5 days of strikes in an unsuccessful demand for attention to their regional development programs.

Interior Minister's Statements

PY181852 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] In a statement made to Panamericana at noon today, Interior Minister Edgar Rojas Ruiz stated that the government deeply regrets the lives lost yesterday during the incidents that took place in the capital of the republic. He noted that security forces had to act in the face of the intransigency of a group of antisocial persons who manipulated a rally organized by the Chuquisaca civic committee. Minister Rojas said:

[Begin Rojas recording] We deeply regret these incidents, and we are the first ones, I repeat, in regretting the loss of human lives, which cannot be recovered for Bolivia. We appeal for harmony, we echo the presidential address urging all Bolivians to ultimately unite in the quest of their own destiny. [end recording]

The interior minister told Panamericana that security forces merely complied with their specific functions since the victims were hit by .22 caliber bullets, which are not used by either the Bolivian police or armed forces. [Begin Rojas recording] ....caused by bullets which are not used by either the police or the armed forces, that is, .22 caliber bullets. This means that among the crowd there were people carrying weapons.

[Question] Is an investigation being conducted to find and arrest the culprits?

[Answer] Security forces have been instructed to make every effort to determine the identity of thes criminals.

[Question] Are there detainees related to these incidents?

[Answer] I have no idea, but should there be any, they will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

[Question] Is it true that it [Sucre] was declared a military zone?

[Answer] No. It was not declared a military zone but simply measures established in the constitution for these cases were adopted.

[Question] That means that the ones involved in the incidents were the security forces.

[Answer] No. Security forces were not the ones who started the incidents, but malicious, ill-intentioned, mindless, misled mobs who are not aware that the Bolivian people should s seek their objectives harmoniously, peacefully and through common efforts. [end recording]

Asked by Panamericana about his impressions concerning President Vildoso'a message, Minister Rojas said: [Begin Rojas recording] It was an invigorating speech which is paramount for the Bolivian people on their path toward constitutionalization. In any case, security organizations will guarantee and will secure the tranquillity needed at this stage, everything, of course, within the framework of the law. [end recording]

Censorship Lifted

PY182107 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Sep 82

[Text] Here is a report by our correspondent in the capital of the republic [Sucre]: [Begin relay] An important meeting that the departmental authorities were holding with His Excellency Cardinal Maurer with other ecclesiastical authorities and the local press for the purpose of resolving the situation in Sucre ended a few minutes ago. During the meeting, the prefect submitted a detailed report on the events which have taken place in this city. He said that the armed forces had discovered a subversive plot that was to be carried out on the occasion of the mass open meeting [words indistinct]. For this reason, a member of the civic committee's executive board requested the armed forces' intervention in order to prevent violence.

The subvervise plot included the murder of high-ranking leaders of the departmental labor federation, robberies and raids. Three large dynamite charges were found in the central market, the President Arce station and the union club.

The press censorship which was enforced here has been lifted. We also want to inform Panamericana's listeners that all the university and labor union leaders who were under arrest have been released.

His Excellency Cardinal Maurer has urged the authorities and the people in general to allow peace and harmony to reign among all the inhabitants of Chuquisaca, and among all the Bolivian people in particular.

Two persons died during the incidents that occured in Sucre. They are (Rafael Caldimonte), driver, 38, and un unidentified 12-year old boy. The following persons were reportedly wounded: (Antonieta Vazquez), 19, (Juan Alfredo Quiste), (Wilbert Diaz Aramayo), 12, (Marcelo Ortega), 12, (Javier Acuna Albio), 18, (Severina Flores), 17, (David Toro), (Javier Mamani), 19, (Jose Luis Romero), 15. Moreover, approximately 15 officers and members of the security forces were beaten and seriously injured.

The home of (Jorge Aboban), former dean of the San Francisco Javier University, was raided. The wounded persons were hit by 22-caliber bullets and pellets, according to the report submitted by the prefect.

The press had requested that the censorship on radio stations and the press be lifted. We hereby report that the aforementioned censorship was lifted a few minutes ago.

(Col Luis Lopez Gaginyalupo) turned up at the prefect's office with a message from the president ofthe nation asking Cardinal Maurer to soothe the people. (Col Lopez Gaginyalupo) has reported that Cardinal Maurer is to travel to the city [as heard] immediately on board an air force plane. [end relay]

MIR Member on Events

PY182050 Paris AFP in Spanish 1952 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] La Paz, 18 Sep (AFP) -- Gaston Encinas Valverde, deputy of the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) and member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), who was reported missing, said in Sucre, the historical capital of Bolivia, that the military repression caused at least 10 dead and more than 50 wounded. In a telephone call to AFP from that city, he regretted that his remarks could not be corroborated by journalists because the military are preventing journalists from having access to the hospitals in addition to having enforced a strict press censorship.

Encinas Valverde reported that the repression was unleashed on orders of the prefect, Col Julio Loayza, and Col Mario Mendez Mendez, commander of the Sucre regiment, who tried to prevent the holding of an open meeting called by civic organizations of that city.

He said that armed civilians arrested MIR members Carlos Salinas, Luis Lopez, Felipe Medina, Fabian Chavez and Jose Miranda, whose whereabouts are not known.

He said: The hotel where I was staying was assaulted by paramilitary bands, and as they did not find me, they could not fulfill their criminal objective.

It has been learned that the Department Labor Federation (COD) ordered that the indefinite general strike which is being held at the national level be maintained in Sucre until the military regime withdraws its military units from the city and lifts the press censorship. In the meantime, the radio federation threatened a total stoppage of this sector if freedom of the press is not restored in Surce.

SANTA CRUZ RADIO STATION DESTROYED BY BOMB

PY191948 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1450 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] A report from Santa Cruz received today indicated that a radio station in that city has been attacked. To find out more about it, we have contacted the headquarters of the Bolivian Radiobroadcasting Association -- Asbora -- which is about to release a communique through the various national news media. We talked with (Carlos Ponce Sanjines), adviser to the Asbora, who will advance us the text of this communique.

[Begin,(Ponce) recording] This is the text of the Asbora communique: The Bolivian Radiobroadcasting Association has the unfortunate duty to report that once again a private radio station has been the target of violent behavior. Asbora wishes to state its strongest condemnation of the deed.

At 0300 this morning, 19 September, Radio Maritima, which, under its director, Juan Francisco Flores, performs permanent services to the community by broadcasting information of interest to the people, was bombed by terrorists. This bombing destroyed the studio of the radio station and severely damaged its building, making it impossible to continue broadcasting. This criminal action, along with a prior attack yet to be clarified, cannot remain unpunished. The Interior Ministry is therefore asked to make an in-depth investigation and release its results.

Should this fail to take place, it would give rise to the (?assumption) that an attempt is being made to conceal the planners and perpetrators of terrorist actions such as the one mentioned above.

Reports published by news media abroad have indicated that several foreign terrorists have been hired by local rightwing groups that seek to repress [words indistinct] constitutional rights. [Passage indistinct] [End recording]

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1527 GMT on 19 September reports that in addition to the bombing of Radio Maritima, a dynamite stick has exploded at the Metro movie theater in Santa Cruz.]

BOMB ATTACKS REPORTED IN LA PAZ; NO CASUALTIES

PY181314 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] It was officially reported that three bombs went off in La Paz resulting in only minor damage and no casualties. Two of the explosions occurred in the (Miraflores) neighborhood, one of them at a house on (Iturrals) Avenue, next door to the house of mineworkers federation leader Victor Lopez, causing window panes to break in the neighborhood. The other explosion occurred at the armed forces noncommissioned officers club on (Lucas Jaimes) Street, which also broke window panes in nearby houses.

The third bomb, which went off in the vicinity of the (El Periodista) neighborhood in [Obrajes), blew a hole in (Roma) Street, breaking windows in that residential area.

NAVY CHIEF SAYS UNITY PREVAILS IN ARMED FORCES

PY181446 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] Upon conclusion of a meeting attended by commanders of large units and military institutions held at the Miraflores headquarters, Bolivian Navy Commander in Chief Vice Adm Oscar Pammo Rodriguez said that the armed forces have emerged stronger from that meeting.

[Begin Pammo recording] I will only say that we have emerged stronger from that meeting and that we have confirmed that prudence and unity prevail within the armed forces. [end recording]

M-19 SUPPORTS BETANCUR'S PEACE EFFORTS

PA171652 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1640 GMT 16 Sep 82

[Report by Libardo Aguirre Saenz]

[Text] Bogota, 16 Sep (EFE) -- Thirty-six days after he took office, President Belisario Betancur has received full support from the guerrilla group 19 April Movement, M-19, to achieve peace in Colombia. During a meeting between political leaders and Government Minister Rodrigo Escobar Navia, Ramiro Lucio, the M-19 spokesman, said that "We are very happy with what Betancur's government is doing because it is focusing on the problem and the country will support his initiatives without asking for miracles." Lucio, a lawyer, surprised the delegates from all the political parties and groups that were present at the meeting called by the government to discuss the pacification of the country.

Former minister German Zea Hernandez, deputy chief of the Liberal Party; Omar Yepes, president of the Conservative National Directorate; Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the Communist Party of Colombia; and Senator Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, representing the "New Liberalism" faction, were among those present at the meeting.

Ramiro Lucio said he directly represented M-19's top leader, Jaime Bateman Cayon, who is currently in hiding. "We do not expect President Betancur to carry out the revolution for us, but it is necessary to establish rules that will prevent an armed struggle," he stressed. Lucio said that for the first time, the M-19 feels that it is being respected. He added that they will never betray their principles due to the limits imposed by democracy. "If we find that the government's attitude is positive, we are willing to cooperate, to fully support the president, to help him in conducting this democratic opening," he stressed.

Noting the importance of the national political meeting with Government Minister Escobar Navia, Lucio said that the guerrilla movement has much to say, much to contribute. He rejected the thesis that these groups are being managed from abroad. Lucio said that in his opinion, the present democratic opening in the country "is the only path that will lead us to peace." He also requested the support from President Betancur for a bill on general amnesty, saying that during the previous government of Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, pacification was not achieved because there was no dialogue.

He termed dangerous the presence in the country of forces that are enemies of peace and charged that seven M-19 former political prisoners were killed by the group Death to Kidnappers, which he said should be unmasked as promised by the president a few days ago. Ramiro Lucio insisted that this rebel group should also contribute to building peace in Colombia.

The rebel representative also told the political leaders that he did not discard the possibility of a truce in the hostilities, but based on the demilitarization of peasant areas.

Many opinions were expressed at the meeting on how to achieve peace in the country, but Minister Escobar Navia preferred to express his points of view at the next week's meeting on Friday.

Suspends Armed Actions

PA200135 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0021 GMT 20 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Bogota, 19 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- The leftist 19 April Movement (M-19), one of the most active guerrilla groups in Colombia, has decided to suspend all armed actions in this country as of today.

Ramiro Lucio Escobar, a former guerrilla and the M-19's representative on a state commission for political reform, made the announcement. Lucio Escobar said on a radio program that the M-19 high command "has decided to suspend all its military activities. In view of the fact that President Belisario Betanour's government has undertaken several peace efforts.

The M-19 had intensified its activities in several places, especially in Caqueta, in the southwest.

In the program, which was broadcast tonight, Lucio Escobar said: "There will be no further hostilities while we wait for a great peace agreement."

Meanwhile, Jacobo Arenas, founder of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), told the CARACOL radio network that his group is willing to lay down its arms if the government offers a broad uncondtitional amnesty as a first step toward the full reestablishment of public order.

President Betancur announced last night that he has excluded military officers from the peace commission headed by Former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo. The army and police commanders on the commission will be replaced by two retired army officers. According to Betancur, this commission will contact the representatives of the insurgents and of congress as well as the spokesmen of the various national sectors in an effort to reach a peace agreement.

On Tuesday, a commission composed of senators and representatives will take steps to integrate three different amnesty initiatives submitted to the legislative branch into a single bill.

Leader's Statements

PA171255 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] Cali -- The 19 April Movement, M-19, has announced here, through its top leader Jaime Bateman Cayon, that it is willing to work for peace, democracy and social changes in Colombia as long as the national government guarantees general and unconditional amnesty for all the guerrillas of the M-19 as well as of other insurgent groups.

Bateman Cayon, accompanied by other top M-19 leaders, met with German Bula Hoyos, government spokesman, senator and former minister, within the framework of the government's actions in the so-called democratic opening.

According to the initial results of the meetings with the government, the M-19 expects that President Belisario Betancur will establish the extent and meaning of the amnesty that will be promoted at the congress.

Bateman Cayon offered to Bula Hoyos the total support of the organization he leads and announced that he is even willing to go to congress to speak to the country about the [word indistinct] reasons that the M-19 has. However, the M-19 commander warned that the group might stop firing its weapons but will never turn them in because that would be like surrendering, and we have not been defeated.

Bateman Cayon noted that Betancur's government must fulfill all its promises to that the road to peace can be made easier. If the government doesn't keep its promises, peace will go down in history as an aspiration which the Colombian Government once had.

At the end of the meeting between Bateman Cayon and Bula Hoyos, the M-19 leader wrote a document on a small white piece of paper which says: Colombia, 17 September 1982. We, meeting in Cali, promise to fight for peace, democracy and change. Long live Colombia.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUAN RADIO PENETRATION CAUSES CONCERN

PA171956 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 9 Sep 82 p 14A

["Good Morning" column by Bosco Valverde]

[Text] The Costa Rican Government has justifiably stated its concern over a radio expansion program that the Nicaraguan authorities plan to implement in the near future.

Carlos Romero Sangines, a technician of the International Telecommunications Union, has clearly explained how defenseless we are to face the war that the nine commanders will declare on us over the Hertzian waves.

To think about applying international laws on the matter would be illusory because the totalitarian administration that rules the northern country appears to have no respect for such laws.

For a long time they have been using amateur radio communications to send coded messages and military orders, and when an operator from another country tries to call their attention about such a flagrant violation of communication law, they insult him.

In view of this, the future looks complex and dangerous. As an unidentified government official has cautioned, "in 3 years we could be flooded with Nicaraguan radio stations that would be as clear as if they were local stations."

The only alternative is to give them the same medicine by installing equally strong or stronger transmitters in strategic points. But we know very well that our country is in no condition to make investments in this area. It is here where international aid, specifically that of the United States, must play an important role.

Let's hope they will not leave us alone in this struggle which is like a wild tiger against a tethered donkey struggle. If we don't receive support, our citizens will soon be receiving the same Marxist indoctrination that guides Nicaragua's future, which is certainly very different from what Sandino dreamed.

EL SALVADOR

HAVANA REPORTS FMLN ARREST CHARGES, ARMY PUSH

PA182151 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] Radio Venceremos, the rebel station, issued a communique on 16 September reporting that U.S. advisers are directing a new military operation against the civilian population in El Salvador. The communique adds that the FMLN intelligence service detected a convoy of 37 trucks which transported approximately 1,500 soldiers to Usulutan Department.

For their part, military sources admitted that a contingent of troops of the Atonatl Battalion had arrived in Usulutan Department. This battalion was trained by the United States.

Meanwhile, the FMLN reported the arrest of Guerrilla Commander Alejandro Montenegro. According to the Radio Venceremos report, members of the Cobra special forces arrested Montenegro and Cesar Amilicar Gonzalez, a Salvadoran leader, in Tegucigalpa on 22 August. The FMLN general command also reported that several people, including two children, ages 8 and 5, were also subsequently arrested in Honduras.

MANAGUA REPORTS FMLN GROUP DETAINED IN HONDURAS

PA181605 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The FMLN command has denounced the detention of five of its members in Honduras. The detained include Commander Alejandro Montenegro, member of the Directorate of the Peoples Revolutionary Army, one of the five organizations that comprise the FMLN. The other detainees are (Cesar Gonzalez), (Jose Caceres), (Gisela Reyes) and children (Lidice Reyes) and (Roberto Armando). The FMLN militants were captured in Tegucigalpa on 22 August, while en route to Costa Rica.

FMLN August Actions

PA190152 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] San Salvador -- Radio Farabundo Marti has announced several figures concerning the blows that the FMLN guerrillas dealt the Salvadoran Army during August.

According to this date, the guerrillas inflicted 250 casualties on the enemy and captured 45 prisoners of war. The guerrillas seized 138 weapons, a quantity normally used by a company. Furthermore, they carried out three strategic sabotage actions causing the government more than $10 million in losses, seized six cities and carried out three ambushes.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Derides 'National Unity'

PA181938 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] After the ultraright took power by assualt, through the elections farce and after the Yankee ambassador was unable to form the so-called national unity government, a big problem came up; how to get the military aid necessary for the survival of the antipopular government.

The U.S. Congress still has doubts about the ability of a government led by Monsignor Romero's murderer to improve the human rights situation. Thus, it became necessary to improve this regime's image. The Apaneca pact followed, under the supervision of the U.S. ambassador himself. With the Apaneca pact, it was declared to the world that El Salvador will continue on the path toward peace, democracy and reforms. Another peace commission and yet another human rights commission were formed. In other words, they designed a new civil and democratic facade for the old dictatorship.

While before they had the military-Christian Democratic junta with Duarte at the head, the facade now goes under the name of national unity and the Apaneca pact.

However, the nation's facts are something else. After some time the death squad, whose top leader is the president of the Constituent Assembly, has gone back into action. The number of missing persons and of bodies found on the streets has increased. There is not only secret terror, there is open terror. The arrests of labor union people, teachers and university people have also been on the rise. And the army's massacres and the bombing of civilians have increased as well.

The Apaneca pact was made on 3 August with many demagogic promises. Only 6 weeks later, we can say that it already belongs to the trashcan of history. The new civil and democratic facade can no longer hide the genocide and the repression. The Apaneca pact has also failed completely in its other objective, which was to stop the internal bickering among the parties of the Constituent Assembly. The Democratic Action Party never signed the pact, the Christian Democrats find themselves increasing affected by the repression every day and the PCN [National Conciliation Party] is more divided than ever.

National unity cannot result from the Yankee ambassador's maneuvers. National unity is a challenge that only the forces of the people and all sectors willing to attain peace can meet.

Members Arrested in Honduras

PA190653 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] In order to expand on the information to our people about the capture of FMLN members in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on Sunday, 22 August, we report that at 1030 on the 22 August the Cobra battalion staged an assault on a residence in the San Francisco neighborhood, Tegucigalpa, and arrested Companeros (Jose Antonio Caceres), a Honduran; (Gisela Reyes); (Teresa de Jesus Serrano), mother of Companero Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo; and the following children: (Grecia Miridice Armijo Reyes), who is 8 years old, and (Roberto Antonio Cruz Serrano), who is 5.

During this operation, the Cobra battalion took over an FMLN radio communications station, with its respective codes. Along with these codes there was an already decoded message that indicated the date, place and time of an appointment for Companero (Arquimedes Antonio Canada), [whose nom de guerre is] Commander Alejandro Montenegro, to be picked up by one of our companeros who is assigned to tasks related to solidarity in Honduras.

The decoded message contained instructions for Commander Montenegro to be picked up on Sunday, 22 August, at Don Pepe terrace at 1230.

As is known to the public in Honduras, the assualt on the house in the San Francisco neighborhood took place 2 hours before the arrests of Companero Alejandro Montenegro, who was arriving in Honduras on that same day, and Companero (Cesar Amilcar Gonzalez), who had gone to the appointment at Don Pepe terrace to pick up Companero Montenegro and later take him to Costa Rica.

We also note that official Honduran Army sources have also publicly announced the discovery in the house in the San Francisco neighborhood of an FMLN radio communications station.

The FMLN hereby announces that the arrest of Companero Commander Alejandro Montenegro was the direct consequence of the assault operation at the San Francisco house. In addition, both the assault operation at the house and the arrest of Alejandro Montenegro were directed by Lt (Billy Joya).

We repeat the name of the Honduran officer who directed the operations: (Billy Joya).

Honduran Hostage Situation

PA190737 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] A few days ago, when we were commemorating the independence of Central America, we referred to a historical tradition; the unity of our peoples in the face of the various foreign aggressions that we have had to face together. We recalled that Guatemalans, Costa Ricans, Hondurans and Salvadorans went unhesitatingly, with combative solidarity, to support the struggle being waged by the Nicaraguan people against the U.S. invaders sent by the filibuster William Walker.

When we referred to those heroic pages of Central American history, we did not do so just to evoke glorious moments. We wanted to warn the present traitors, the present filibusters, that today, like yesterday, the Central American peoples are again ready to unite to fight against the imperialists and their lackeys.

These are not just words. Our peoples speak the language of deeds. On the evening of 17 September in Honduras, a group of men and women, who emerged from the very bosom of that fraternal people, disregarding the risk to their lives, assaulted a building in which some 200 influential businessmen and officials of the Honduran Government were gathered. These men are now being held hostage in return for fulfillment of a number of popular demands.

Let Reagan, Deane Hinton, Negroponte, Garcia and Alvaro Martinez [as heard] ponder why the demands of the Honduran patriots include the withdrawal of the U.S. advisors from Honduras. Why are they demanding the expulsion of the Somozist bands that are attacking the Nicaraguan people from Honduran territory? Let thse new filibusters and their lackeys ask themselves why this group of Honduran partiots are risking their lives to demand an end to the aggression of the Honduran Army against our Salvadoran people. Let them wonder why the Honduran patriots are risking their lives to demand the release of our Commander Alejandro Montenegro and the Salvadorans who are being held prisioner in Honduran jails.

There is only one answer to those questions. It is that while Reagan is trying to revive the old U.S. imperial dream of subjugating our people while obedient lackeys trade with our independence and sovereignty, our people do not hesitate -- just as Francisco Morazan, Juan Santamaria, Ramon Belloso and others did not hesitate yesterday in making our five republics five fingers that united and strongly interwined with the ties of solidarity comprise the powerful fist of Central American unity to strike at and defeat any invader.

Long live Central American unity! Long live our people's response to the interventionist threat!

More on Honduran Arrests

PA191533 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1453 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Letter sent by the FMLN to the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission; dated 17 September, San Salvador]

[Text] The FMLN wishes to denounce the following to the OAS Inter-American Human Rights commission:

1. On 22 August, members of the Honduran Army's special Cobra battalion captured (Arquimides Antonio Canada), "Commander Alejandro Montenegro"; and (Cesar Amilcar Gonzalez), both of them Salvadorans, in the La Terraza de Don Pepe Restaurant located in the center of Tegucigalpa.

2. Commander Alejandro Montenegro holds leadership posts in one of the organizations that comprise the FMLN. He is a member of the joint staff of the Central Front located on Guazapa mountain.

3. (Jose Antonio Caceres), a Honduran; and (Gisela Reyes) and Teresa Serrano, all FMLN militants; and children Gracia Armijo Reyes, 8 years old; and Roberto Antonio Cruz Serranos, 5 years old, all of them Salvadorans, were arrested in a house in the San Francisco neighborhood in southwest Tegucigalpa.

4. According to eyewitnesses, the Honduran Government's military forces led by Lt [name indistinct], which captured companeros (Arquimides Antionio Canada) and (Cesar Amilcar Gonzalez) and the residents of the house in the San Francisco neighborhood, took them in two vehicles, a truck and a jeep with Honduran license plate no 11984.

5. The children are currently being held in the minors center (Sor Maria Rosas) village No 2, while the others under arrest are being held in the Public Security Forces, FUSEP headquarters known as (Csamata).

In view of the above, the FMLN very respectfully asks the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to sue its good offices with President Roberto Suazo Cordova's government to obtain the release of the arrested companeros and their immediate return.

Guatemalan Executions Scored

PA191817 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] On 17 September in Guatemala, the Rios Montt regime executed four young men for the crime of being revolutionaries. The four men, Jaime de la Rosa Rodriguez, Julio Perdomo, Marcelino Marroquin, and Julio Cesar Vasquez, all members of the Poor Peoples Guerrilla Army [EGP], were executed with the firm belief that they were dying for the ideals for which they struggled, for an honorable and just fatherland in which human rights are respected.

In a rigged trial within its special and secret military courts, the criminal Rios Montt government issued the sentence only an hour before the assassination of these four brave sons of the Guatemalan people took place. They were not given the least opportunity to defend themselves.

The method of execution is the legalized way [words indistinct] assassins who hold power in Guatemala at a time when the Reagan government is trying to convince the international public that human rights are respected in Guatemala, in order to renew military aid to the Rios Montt government. However, these actions show that the Rios Montt government flagrantly violates the most essential human rights in Guatemala. Radio Venceremos joins its voice of protest to the many that have already been raised in repudiation of Rios Montt's policy and we demand an end to the repression of the Guatemalan people by the criminal [word indistinct] who rule that country.

Death Squad Murders Increasing

PA191838 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] The death squads continue to commit crimes. Nine people have been murdered. The death squads directed by Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson have increased their crimes in the past few hours in various areas of the country. murdering nine more people. The list of those murders is as follows:

In the market of Mejicanos, the body of 35-year-old agricultural worker [Fermin Mendoza] was found. He had been shot to death. The court of Mejicanos examined the bodies of two people who had been decapitated and slashed with machetes. They have yet to be identified. In (Chalatepeque), 69-year-old peasant (Maria Ramos) was killed with machete blows. In San Salvador, near the [word indistinct] of the Treasury Police, which are located a block from that repressive force's garrison, the body of (Jose Antonio Morales Punes) was found with a bullet wound in the head. In Usulutan, the bullet-riddled body of 31-year-old Eduardo [last name indistinct] was found. In La Union, two decapitated bodies [words indistinct]. In La Libertad Department, it was reported that at km 54 of the coastal highway the body of an unidentified woman, who was about 40 years old, was found.

All of these crimes have the same characteristics of those commited by the death squads. The bodies are decapitated and show signs of torture.

HONDURAS

GUERRILLAS OCCUPY BUILDING, HOLD 200 HOSTAGE

Government Ministers Held

PA180536 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0500 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- A government commission will negotiate with the leftwing "Cinchonero" guerrilla command the conditions for the release of more than 200 hostages that the rebels are holding in the building of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Cortes [department in the City of San Pedro Sula] in northern Honduras. The guerrillas occupied the building early this evening and are holding inside Arturo Corleto, minister of finance and public credit; Gustavo Alfaro, economy minister; Gonzalo Carias Pineda, president of the Central Bank; and a group of businessmen.

The police cordoned off the area where the building is located and erected barricades on the streets to block access by vehicles and unauthorized persons to the area. Newsmen are kept some 400 meters from the building occupied by the guerrillas.

Moments after the building of the chamber of industries was occupied shooting was heard, but it is not known if anyone was wounded. However, the guerrillas requested in their first contact with the police the presence of a doctor to attend to some businessmen who were "injured." This is the first time that a Honduran guerrilla group has staged an operation of this size.

Government Reports Seizure

PA181243 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1154 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] San Pedro Sula -- The Cinchonero people's liberation movement's fatherland or death command and its "Armed People Will Win" operation have claimed credit for the seizure of the Commerce and Industries Chamber's facilities in Cortes. More than 150 San Pedro Sula businessmen and three government officials -- Finance Minister Arturo Corleto, Economy Minister Gustavo Alfaro and Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias Pineda -- are being held hostage. The guerrillas' action took place a few minutes after the opening of a meeting between the businessmen and the government representatives, who were to discuss the country's grave economic situation. Shots from high-caliber weapons were heard from the outset of the seizure.

The Cinchonero command is demanding that the Honduran military authorities release over 100 political prisoners in the various departments. According to what Commanders One and Two told us in an interview, they are also demanding an end to repression. They are also proposing the formation of a negotiating commission, which would include representatives of the executive, judicial and legislative branches, as well as Dr Carlos Roberto Reina, president of the Inter-American Human Rights Court; Dr Ramon Custodio Lopez; and either San Pedro Sula Bishop Msgr Jaime Brufau or Archibshop (Hector Enrique Santos).

Police Report

PA181313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1234 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpts] San Pedro Sula, 18 Sep (ACAN) -- A guard has died and two businessmen are seriously wounded as a result of the action staged last night by a guerrilla group that seized San Pedro Sula's Chamber of Commerce and Industries building, where the group is holding 200 people as hostage.

The commando group demands the release of 160 political prisoners, including Salvadoran Guerrilla Commander Hugo Montenegro, who was arrested by Tegucigalpa's police some days ago when he was with some friends in a restaurant. The Honduran guerrillas also demand an "end to the repression" that, according to them, the police are applying to leaders of popular organizations.

The police, judging from the characteristics of the operation -- which has caused amazement in Honduras, since it is the first of its kind in this country -- have established that the action was carried out by approximately 30 guerrillas.

The guerrilla group has identified itself, through its commanders "one" and "two," with the slogan "fatherland or death," calling the operation "the armed people will win."

Guerrilla Commander Interview

PA181413 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1332 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpts] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- Commander One, who leads the guerrilla operation that led to the seizure of the local Commerce and Industries Chamber building, has told this agency that he has only 80 hostages in his power and that 2 seriously injured people were evacuated early today.

During a phone interview, Commander One explained that the "Armed People Will Win" operation must conclude today at 1700 local time (2300 GMT). He added that seven fundamental demands have been made, which will be announced only after the Honduran Government agrees to begin negotiations.

He then said that they have asked the government to create a negotiating commission composed of Mexican Ambassador Plutarco Albarran Lopez; Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Honduran Human Rights Commission; and Honduran Carlos Roberto Reina, president of the Inter-American Human Rights Court.

According to the guerrilla leader, Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova did not accept the names suggested for the negotiating commission and suggested San Pedro Sula Bishop Msgr Jaime Brufau instead. However, according to him, "we don't want to talk to any priests."

The guerrilla leader told this agency that there are two Americans, one Swiss, one Cuban, three Guatemalans, two Chileans and four Mexicans among the hostages.

Threat To 'Execute' Hostages

PA181415 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1359 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The 80 hostages that are being held by a guerrilla group at the Chamber of Commerce and Industries building of San Pedro Sula, in northern Honduras, may be "executed Selectively" beginning at 1800 (0000 GMT) this afternoon. The leader of the "Fatherland or Death" command of the "Cinchoneros" guerrilla group, known only as "Commander Uno," has told ACAN-EFE that "our operation here must last no more than 24 hours and thus has fatal deadlines for the hostages."

"Uno" allowed several captive ministers to speak with ACAN-EFE; the ministers said: "We are fine. They have not treated us badly. They seem to be determined to do anything." The guerrilla leader speaks calmly, and his voice revealing that he is a young man. "We will first execute prominent figures who have collaborated with the reaction and the oligarchy that has controlled Honduras for many years," he said.

"Commander Uno" refused to supply a list of the individuals they plan to kill if the government doesn't meet their demands, but the hostages include Economy Secretary Gustavo Alfaro, Treasury Secretary Arturo Corleto and Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias Pineda.

"Uno" told ACAN-EFE that their fundamental requests are an end to repression and the release of approximately 160 political prisoners, including 34 Salvadorans, Venezuelans, Ecuadoreans, Guatemalans and Mexicans, while the rest are Hondurans. The guerrilla leader warned that "the Honduran Government and its armed forces will be solely responsible for" the deaths that may occur this afternoon and tonight.

Negotiations Begin

PA181752 Paris AFP in Spanish 1723 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 18 Sep (AFP) -- Negotiations between the Honduran Government and the Cinchonero Command, which is currently holding 105 hostages in San Pedro Sula, 240 km north of Tegucigalpa, "began at 0930," the leader of the guerrilla command told AFP on the phone.

The rebel leader, identified as Commander One, announced earlier that the mediating commission was composed of San Pedro Sula Bishop Msgr Jaime Brufau, Venezuelan Embassy Counseling Minister Hugo Alvarez and Apostolic Nuncio Andres Dimontedemolo. Dimontedemolo, however, is currently in Managua, where he also serves as the Vatican's representative. The guerrilla command then proposed either Deputy Enrique Aguilar, a member of the minority centrist Innovation and Unity Party; or former Labor Minister Gautama Fonseca. It has not yet been possible to determine which of the two was finally chosen. When asked about this, Commander One simply said: "Please get off the (phone) line. We have begun the negotiations."

The Cinchoneros initially demanded that the mediating group be composed or representatives of the three state branches and that it also include Ramon Custodio Lopez and Carlos Roberto Reina, members of the Honduran Human Rights Commission and of the Inter-American Human Rights Court, respectively.

In this regard, Commander One has said that "our position should not be interpreted as weakness. The hostages know the kind and number of weapons and ammunition we have and they know how many of us there are." Although he did not disclose the number of members in the command -- supposedly between 8 or 10 -- he did say that "there are enough of us to guarantee the success of this operation."

Government Stipulations

PA182115 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Sep (AFP) -- One of the leaders of the revolutionary group called AFP by telephone and said that the Honduran Government "will consider the negotiations broken if the Cinchonero Command executes any of the 105 hostages who have been held since yesterday afternoon in San Pedro Sula."

At 1420 local, the negotiating commission, comprised only of Msgr Jaime Brufau, bishop of San Pedro Sula, and Hugo Alvarez, minister-counsellor of the Venezuelan Embassy in Honduras, were discussing five points that the government presented to the subversive group, it was indicated.

The second in command of the rebel group, after Command Uno, told AFP that the government has presented five points of which only two have been learned thus far. These points are, first, that the negotiating commission is the only channel for the talks between our command and the government and, second, that the talks between the government and the command will be broken "if there are any executions on our part."

Initial Agreements

PA182258 Paris AFP in Spanish 2235 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 18 Sep (AFP) -- The Honduran Government and the Cinchonero command which is holding 105 officials and businessmen hostage in the northern part of the country, have committed themselves to withdraw military forces to a radius of 500 meters from the site of the occupation and not to execute any of the prisoners, respectively, so long as the talks continue through the mediating commission, a spokesman for the rebels announced today.

The Cinchonero command will not execute any of the hostages held in San Pedro Sula "if at the expiration of the deadline at 1700 this afternoon, the talks continue regarding our demands," the "second in command," who is identified as the second lieutenant of "Commander Uno," reiterated in a telephone conversation with AFP.

The second in command said that this afternoon the Cinchoneros accepted five points proposed by the government which define the process of the negotiations, namely:

1. The commission is the only channel of communication between the government and the Cinchoneros.

2. No particular effort outside of the commission will be accepted.

3. All the points will be channeled through the commission.

4. If any hostage is killed, all talks by the commission will cease and there will be no agreement with the government.

5. To begin the dialogue, women and old persons must be released.

This last point imposed by the government had been previously accepted "in principle," the second in command stated.

The guerrilla explained that there are a maximum of 15 persons who perform service functions for the members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortes and that they are there "without our intending to hold them."

Building Employees Released

PA190014 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0004 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Excerpt] San Pedro Sula (Honduras), 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- Fifteen hostages were released today by the "Cinchonero" guerrilla command which last night occupied the San Pedro Sula Chamber of Commerce where they are holding 89 more persons. The hostages released are members of the administrative and maintenance personnel of the Chamber of Commerce Building. The guerrillas had guaranteed their lives ever since the outset of the operation.

Four Hostages Escape

PA190214 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0145 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- Three hostages managed to escape from the building of the San Pedro Sula Chamber of Commerce in northern Honduras, which was occupied last night by the Cinchonero guerrilla group, military sources have announced. According to the report, the three former hostages were in good health and were taken to the base of a San Pedro military unit to report on the situation inside the occupied building.

This brings to four the hostages who have escaped from the guerrillas. Early this afternoon, Armando Colomert, a young merchant, managed to jump from one of the windows of the building and reached a police post. Some 86 of the 105 hostages taken last night still remain inside the building.

More on Guerrilla Demands

PA190254 Paris AFP in Spanish 0232 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Sep (AFP) -- The release of some 70 political prisoners and missing persons was one of the key demands raised to the government by the Cinchonero command, which is holding 105 hostages in San Pedro Sula, at the beginning of the negotiations of their demands, one of the rebel leaders told AFP by telephone.

The "second in command," second lieutenant to the command leader, "Commander Uno," announced that it was agreed that the country's media would publish their organization's manifestors regarding the national situation and its only solution; the people's armed struggle.

He also affirmed that the government agreed to publish in Honduras a communique on the causes that prompted the command to stage this operation in which 105 businessmen and ranking government officials are being held hostage.

He indicated that their demands were discussed "point by point" and that a prompt response in awaited on their demands for the release of political prisoners and missing persons in the country.

The other demands are "the expulsion of military advisers, the dismantling of the Somozist bands and an end to the intervention of the army against the Salvadoran people," among other things.

The second in command reported that the army stopped shooting at the building early this afternoon, thus improving in the dangerous situation to which the prisoners and revolutionaries were subject.

FUSEP Bulletin

PA190300 Tegucigalpa Cadena AudioVideo in Spanish 0209 GMT 19 Sep 82

[News bulletin issued by the Public Relations Department of the Honduran Public Security Forces in Tegucigalpa on 18 September -- read by announcer]

[Text] With regard to a news dispatch from San Salvador, El Salvador, by the ASSOCIATED PRESS which is published in page 2 in a three-column report by the Tegucigalpa newspaper El HERALDO on 17 September, the Public Security Forces [FUSEP] makes the following clarification:

The dispatch states that a communique of the high command of the guerrillas which was read yesterday over Radio Venceremos, a clandestine station which serves the interests of the FMLN of El Salvador, indicates that the FUSEP is responsible for the arrest of Alejandro Montenegro, top leader of the Salvadoran guerrillas, and five of his comrades.

The FUSEP states that in fulfillment of the country's laws, it exercises constant vigilance so as to discover and arrest undocumented foreigners. In this way, a number of foreigners who are under arrest for not having documents or having false documents are periodically turned over to the General Directorate of Population and Immigration Policy. Those people are deported within a peremptory period to their countries of origin.

Confirming the above, we add to this bulletin the list of foreigners expelled from the country so far this month. Names on this list apparently coincide with the list included the previously mentioned dispatch.

They are: (Suazo, Luis Alberto); (Suazo, Ana Luz); (Serrano Alvarenga, Teresa); (Reyes Portillo, Gisela); (Martinez Carcamo, Yovani); (Gonzalez Arcia, Cesar Amincar); (Canadas, Arquimedes Antonio); (Cardona, Guillermo Claveles); (Vasquez Alvarado, Dora); (Laines Romero, Vicente);

(Johnson Clark, Sebert), a Jamaican;

(Zelaya Rivas, Jose Ramon); (Moreno, Rodimiro); (Gonzalez Martinez, Elvis); (Molina Molina, Jorge Salomon); (Casorla Castilla, Elena); (Del Cid Sorto, Mercedes); (Laines Castillo, Gloria Belinda); (Portillo Maravilla, Miguel Angel); (Flores Contreras, Jose Bruno); (Flores Garcia, Bruno Antonio); (Turcios Contreras, Ovidio); all of these are Salvadorans.

FMLN Rejects FUSEP Bulletin

PA191802 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] Attention. As everyone knows, the commando group of Honduran patriots that is holding hostages in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, is demanding the release of a number of political prisoners, including several Salvadorans, among them Companero Aruimides Antonio Canada, known as Commander Alejandro Montenegro, who was captured in Tegucigalpa on 22 August by the Cobra battalion forces under the command of Lt (Billy Joya).

Since then, the companeros have been held at the FUSEP [Public Security Forces] Central Headquarters. On 18 September, a FUSEP spokesman read an official communique indicating that several Salvadorans, including Companero Arquimides Antonio Canada, known as Commander Montenegro, and other companeros arrested in the San Francisco neighborhood of Tegucigalpa had been deported to El Salvador.

We charge that this is completely false. The companeros are being held in Honduras at FUSEP's Central Headquarters. We charge that this is a maneuver by the Honduran Government to avoid negotiating the release of these Salvadoran patriots, in view of the demand made by the commando group of the Cinchonero peoples liberation movement of Honduras.

We are absolutely certain that those companeros are in the FUSEP Headquarters in Tegucigalpa and that the alleged deportation is just a maneuver by the Honduran Government to evade the release of these Salvadoran patriots.

We repeat. We have in hand testimony of the capture of these companeros by Cobra battalion forces under the command of Lt (Billy Joya).

The FMLN demands the immediate release of the companeros captured in Honduras. It demands the immediate relaese of Companero Commander Alejandro Montenegro.

Two More Hostages Escape

PA191412 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1335 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Excerpts] This is a confirmed report: Two hsotages have escaped. They were part of the group of persons that the Cinchonero group is holding hostage in the San Pedro Sula Chamber of Commerce and Industries Building. Here is a direct report from San Pedro Sula by our correspondent (Alfonso Analiba Cali):

[Begin live relay] Thank you colleague. Your attention, please, listeners of Cadena Audio Video throughout the country. We are reporting from a place near the Cortes Chamber of Commerce and Industries Building. This is a last minute report for the Honduran people. Your attention please, listeners.

A strictly official source near the Chamber of Commerce has confirmed to us that approximately 15 minutes ago, 2 hostages escaped from the Cortes Chamber of Commerce and Industries Building, where more than 90 persons are being held hostage. The Cadena Audio Video news department has been informed by an official source that the last name of one of the businessmen who were able to escape this morning is (Villar). The other one is a San Pedro Sula businessman.

Four More Hostages Released

PA200057 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 0010 GMT 20 Sep 82

[Text] We are confirming at this time the release of four hostages by the Cinchoneros Guerrilla command, thus reducing the number still being held at the Cortes Chamber of Commerce Building. Here is the list of those released: Mercedes Sikaffy, Nohemi Sikaffy, Juan Canahuati and businessman Sami Abufele.

We repeat to the listeners of Radio America and Radio San Pedro and the public in general: A few minutes ago, four other persons were released who were being held as hostages inside the Cortes Chamber of Commerce building. They are sisters Mercedes and Nohemi Sikaffy, businessmen Juan Canahuati and Sami Abufele. Sami is a brother of the vice president of the Cortes Chamber of Commerce, engineer Emin Abufele, who was wounded and is currently a patient at the medical center in San Pedro Sula.

We also wish to report that about 2 hours ago the negotiating committee arrived at the Cortes Chamber of Commerce Building. The committee includes by Msgr Jaime Brufau, bishop of San Pedro and the charge d'affaires of the Venezuelan Embassy in Honduras, Hugo Alvarez Pifano. We have also been informed that Msgr Hector Enrique Santoa, archbishop of the Catholic Church with headquarters in Tegucigalpa, is in San Pedro Sula. It is probable that other hostages will be released in the next few hours.

There are rumors circulating among local and foreign newsmen here that a plane could arrive from somewhere in South America, specifically Venezuela, which may serve as transportation for the Cinchoneros. A proposal has reportedly been submitted for Venezuela to provide a plane which will serve to transfer the command to another unspecified country. We will try to confirm this information within a few minutes. We ahve been informed that those just released are suffering from ailments that require scheduled treatment. This is the case of the Sikaffy sisters and businessman Sami Abufele.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES NAMES OF HOSTAGES HELD

PA181705 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1324 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] We have established contact with Economy Minister Gustavo Alfaro, who is inside the Cortes Chamber of Commerce nad Industries offices, in an effort to obtain the names of all persons being held there.

[Begin telephone relay] [Question] In order to inform the Honduran people, particularly the relatives of those who are being held as hostages, about the condition of these people, Cadena Audio Video wishes to know the names of all the persons who are being held.

[Answer] In all, there are 105 people, including government officials, businessmen and Chamber of Commerce employees. The government officials and employees are myself, the economy minister; Finance Minister Arturo Corleto; Gonazalo Carias, president of the Central Bank; Miguel Calix Suazo, chief of the Central Bank's economic affairs office; (Raul Medina), chief of the bank's regulating department; Henry Sheran, manager of the bank's agency in San Pedro Sula; (Mario Perdomo), director of economic integration at the Economy Ministry; and (Salvador Melgar), director general of industries.

The businessmen are Mario Belott, president of the Cortes Chamber of Commerce; Rafael Pastor Zelaya, president of the National Industrialists Association; Juan Canahuati, manager of Lovable of Honduras; Nasry Canahuati, of the Contessa furniture factory; Gabriel Kattan, of Van Heusen of Central America; Jacobo Kattan, of the President Paz factory; Edgardo Canahuati, of Lovable of Honduras; Antonio Kattan, of the Bolivar factory; [name indistinct] Canahuati, of Plasticos de Honduras; Ralph Handal, of Commercial San Antonio; Nicolas Maloff, of [name indistinct] industries and Distribudora Caribe; Edgardo Larach, private businessman; Jose Kattan of Distribudora Textil; Juan Canahuati [as heard], of Plasticos de Honduras; Juan Fara, of Ferreteria Faraj; Rafael Caceres, of Casa Canahuati; (Frances Caguas), of (Agencia Caguas); Luis a Jaar of (Commercial Almizar) Victor Garvey) a private businessman; (Ambar Sumar), a private businessman; Antonio Kattan [as heard] of Aceros de Honduras; (Richard Pavla), of [name indistinct], Jorge Jaar, of Casa Jaar; (Rafael Faise) a private businessman; (Johnny Sains), of (Tic Tac de Honduras); (Humberto Llarach), or Adhesivos Industriales; Mercedes and Noemi Sikaffy of Sikaffy Industrial; (Fania Gussey), of (Dermacasa); (Nessim Gahues), of [name indistinct]; Marco Antonio Nunez, of [word indistinct] of Honduras; (Modesto Lindell), of Compania Hondurena de Alimentos of Tegucigalpa; (Lisando Salazar), employee of Jacobo Canahuati, S.A.; (Mario Flores Ponce), of (Dissinker); (Angel Eduardo Ramos), of Agencia Aduaneroa Internacional; (Max Lara Serrato), employee of Casa Jaar; (Henry Hultz Leiva), of (Agencia Hamlet); Romeo Rendon, of Utiles de Honduras: Edwin Roesenthal, of the Azucarera Chumbagua; Carlos Montiel, of Azucarera Chumbagua; Omar Pineda Reyes, of (Polyfilamentos) S.A.; (Reinaldo Paz), of [name indistinct] of Honduras; Miguel Angel Garcia, of [name indistinct]; Guillermo Mejia, of Agencia Aduaneroa Mejia Cobos; Roberto Reyes Silva, of Agencia Aduanera A.R. Pineda and Co.; (Juan Ramon Garcia), a university student; (Carlos Hayes), of Azuvaca Hondurena; Francisco Gavidia, a lawyer; Juan Daniel Quiroz, of Tabacalera Hondurena; Marco Antonio Rietti, of Cerveceria Hondurena; [name indistinct]; German Joaquin Castillo, of Auto Partes Handal; (Jorge Prieto), a university student; Jose Mejia, manager of Sacos de Honduras; Hugo Rivera, of Tabacalera Hondurena; Manuel Mendez, of Fabrica de Ropa Valentino; (Walterio Gamdalez), of [name indistinct];Sergio Villar, of Commercial Hondurena; Felipe Arguello, of Casa Comercial Mathews; (Jorge A. Castro), of Agencia Hamlet; (Jose Benjamin Flores), of the Bank of Honduras: (Rupertino Fugon), of Polymer, S.A.; Paulino Lopez, private businessman; (Tulio Chamorro), of Gases Industriales; (Juan Jose Hernandez), of (Agencia Aduanera Tela); (Eusebio Peurto), or Repuestos y Accesorios, S.A.; (Daniel Humberto Elias), of Tabacalera Hondurena; (Antonio Hettan), of Cementos de Honduras; (Jorge Tres), of Cementos de Honduras: Roberto Granados, manager of the Association of Coffee Exporters; (Enrique Morales), manager of Hondulit S.A.; [name indistinct], of Honduit, S.A.; (Firpo Valencia), of Plasticos Sula; (Mario Morales), private businessman; (Carlos Rivera Zatruch), of Cementos de Honduras; Armando Belgrano, of (Polyfilamentos), S.A.: (Gwen de Martell), of Banco Atlantida; (Armando Colleneto), university student; Jose Luis Neyra, a Spaniard, manager of Viveros Tropical, S.A.; Rauel Jimenez Sandoval, a Mexican, of Cementos de Honduras; Olmedo Homero Morales, a Chilean, of Cementos de Honduras; [name indistinct], a Chilean, of [name indistinct]; Orlando Rojas Perez, a Chilean, of Cementos de Honduras; Carlos Montezuma Davila, a Guatemalan, of Almidores del Istmo, S.A.

[Answer continues] Bernett Gurort, a Swiss, of Cementos de Honduras; (Elena Martinez), of Agencia Aduanera; (Adan Maldonado), of Azucarera Chumbagua, (Aida Colindres), and (Roberto Duron), of the Economy Ministry.

The Chamber of Commerce employees are Roberto Altamirano, manager; Jose Antonio Castellanos, special projects director; (Mayra de Orellana), secretary; (Marco Tulio Mejia), librarian; (Ana Monge), receptionist; (Alfredo Mejia), handyman; (Julia Paz), cleaning woman; and there is lanca Aguilar, secretary of the National Association of Exporters of Honduras.

In all, we are 105 persons, all of whom are well, fortunately, with the natural nervousness caused by the tense situation we have been undergoing since 1830 yesterday. We have had some inconveniences resulting, for example, from the sporadic shots fired at the building, the windows of which have been shattered by the shots.

[Question] Minister Alfaro, we understand that this communication may be restricted, but we would like to know how you are being treated by the kidnappers so far?

[Answer] Well, the truth is they have behaved pretty well in occupying the building. Two were injured but they were promptly evacuated, including Emin Abufele, the vice president of the chamber, who, we have learned, has been successfully operated on for the injuries he suffered at the time. They have been firm in their determination; that is, the hostages are kept on the floors, and since the windows extend to the floors, the shots from outside are, to a certain extent, a menace to the lives of the 105 hostages undergoing this experience.

[Question] Has there been any contact with the negotiating commission?

[Answer] I understand that some contact has been made through the delegate representing the central government or the armed forces in the negotiations and that a commission, supposedly including Msgr Jaime Brufau, who I believe is the apostolic nuncio, and the charge d'affaires of Venezuela in Tegucigalpa, has been created.

[Question] Then, negotiations are underway? We are pleased to learn this. We would also like to know, if you can answer this, how many persons are in the group that occupied the building?

[Answer] This is difficult to know. Anyway, we are not allowed to give any such information. [end telephone relay]

RADIO VENCENEMOS REPORTS CINCHONERO OPERATION

Cinchonero Communique No 1

PA191512 (Clandestine) Radio Vencermos in Spanish to El Salvador 1443 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Communique No 1 issued by the Honduran Cinchonero people's liberation movement in San Pedro Sula on 17 September -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Honduran Cinchonero people's liberation movement, a [words indistinct] organization that struggles for the defense of the Honduran people's sacred interests, states to the central government, armed forces and other authorities:

1. At 1830 on 17 September 1982 it ordered its fatherland or death commando group to begin the military operation "The Armed People Will Win."

2. Taking the installations of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortes by attack, our commando group completely controls the situation, holding as hostage a large group of businessmen, industrialists and merchants, as well as individuals from other economic areas, including the Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

[Words indistinct] with the exemption of the administrative workers and employees, all of the measures ordered by our organization if the liberal government does not fulfill the demands that will be made known through a negotiating commission.

3. The commission should be composed by the government in the following manner: the executive branch and its representative, the legislative branch and its representative, the judicial branch and its representative; on behalf of the people's sectors, we ask that the Permanent Committee of Human Rights be represented by Dr Amon Custodio Lopez, also representative of the United Nations; the Inter-American Human Rights Court should be represented by Carlos Roberto Reina.

4. As an immediate condition, we demand the withdrawal of the troops or other forces to a radius of no less than 500 meters from the installation. We will not permit provocations or diversionist actions by political leaders near the stallation. The electricity, water and telephone services in the installation must not be cut.

5. It is now up to the government, its armed forces and other authorities to ensure that the outcome of the situation will not be an unfortunate event, in which the hostages and the soldiers will get the worst part.

[Dated] San Pedro Sula, 17 September 1982.

The armed people will win. Cinchonero people's liberation movement.

Prisoners To Be Released

PA191609 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1455 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Text] The following is a list of Salvadoran and Honduran political prisoners whose release is being demanded by the Cinchonero commandos, in exchange for the hostages whom they are holding in the Chamber of Commerce building in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

First we will list the Salvadoran prisoners in Honduras: (Auricio Varilla), (Noa Gomez de Varilla), (Endo Arce Romero), (Ana Arce Romero), (Salvador Fabian), (Claudio Maria Dominguez), (Ana Isabel Cordova Ramirez), (Concepcion Diego de Navarro), (Ana Maria Sierras), (Cara Hector Romero), (Francsico Garcia), (Jorge Enrique Ramirez), (Yanira Villalta), (Narciso Lopez Ayala), (Jose Eduardo Gonzalez Gomez), (Luis Alberto Alvarado), (Masin de Quintanilla Mulber), (Rafael Torres Rodriguez), (Julio via Cruz), (Jose Mario Martinez), (Jose Gustavo Azueta), (Tomas Lujun), (Juan Franisco Alvarenga), (Jose Maximiliano Hernandez), (Mario Balladares Batres), (Roberto Ventura), (Grisel Carminta Castro), (Manuel de Jesus Rodriguez) and two other Salvadorans whose last name have not been listed. Their first names are Jorge and Ruben. There is also Commander Alejandro Montenegro. Now we will read the list of Honduran political prisoners:

(Ircidel Martinez), (Tomas Matilde Ibalde), (Luis Beltran Meza), (Ruben Rodriguez), (Domingo Rodriguez), (Oscar Alexis Colindres), (Jorge Sabana Arriate), (Angel Moncada Velasquez), (Jose Avelino Duarte), (Ruben Somozo), (Jorge Martinez Mendoza), (Antonio Zuniga), (Cornelio Caceres Castellanos), (Marvin Wallace), (Pedro Montalban), (Eduaro Lanzas), (German Perez Aleman), (Raul Abriles Cruz), (Noel Sorinao), (Juan Barahona), (Carlos Borjas) and a companero by the last name of (Baral) who was captured in February of this year.

The list includes three political prisoners with other nationalities: Carlos Ramirez, a Guatemalan; Jorge Manuel Morales Alvarado, an Ecuadorean; and (Eduardo Garcia), a Venezuelan.

Cinchonero Movement Manifesto

PA191751 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1455 GMT 19 Sep 82

["Manifesto to the people of Honduras and the world "issued by the Cinchonero peoples liberation movement of Honduras, dated 17 September -- read by announcer]

[Text] 1. On 17 September 1982 at 1830, the Cinchoneros peoples liberation movement began, through the fatherland or death commando group, the military operation called "The Armed People Will Win."

2. The courageous members of the commando group, worthy sons of the Honduran people, have honored the slogan "fatherland or death" by seizing the installations of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cortes by attack and by holding a large number of members, including its board of directors, executives, paramilitarymen, administrative and service personnel, as well as the economy and public credit minister, the finance minister and members of the government's economic cabinet, as hostages. The entire force of revolutionary power will fall upon these people, with the exception of the workers, in the application of each and every measure ordered by our organization if the liberal-military government does not meet the demands that will be issued through a negotiating commission within the stipulated period.

3. The Cinchonero peoples liberation movement is a political-military organization composed of the best men and women, who are most consistent with and self-sacrificing in the struggle for the defense of the people's rights, which are now once again being crushed by the sell-out, corrupt and repressive government, defender of the gringo imperialist monopolies whose crumbs are picked up by the liberal-military traitors and by the landowning oligarchic usurpers of power. It would take too long to list the reasons for our actions, since the people suffer them daily and since they know their history very well, for they are its protagonists. It will only be when true liberation is achieved in this country that there will no longer be social inequality and its resulting hunger; unhealthiness; illiteracy; lack of housing; absence of the right to culture, art and science; disrespect of man's individual and public rights, war; terror; state repression of the popular classes, with the illegal arrests, kidnappings, torture and murders; and the disappearance of labor, peasant, student and professional leaders and of progressive activists and leaders of revolutionary organizations, whose bodies are later found in clandestine cemeteries, while their executioners, rather than being punished, are promoted, honored and decorated, so that they will become the new rich from their new positions, keeping the people in the most disgraceful situation and the country subjugated to the most degrading position of dependence on its U.S. masters and [passage indistinct].

6. An end to the army's intervention against the Salvadoran people.

7. The dismantling and expulsion of the Somozist counterrevolutionary bands, which murder the Nicaraguan people with support of the Honduran Army.

8. Conversion of the tremendous military aid that imperialism gives to the army and to the reactionary exploitive sectors of private enterprise into the solution of the problems of the peasants and workers, promoting agrarian reform, opening new job sources, making schools public and improving the educational situation, guaranteeing employment and honorable salaries to professionals and supporting the economic sector that comprises small and medium producers and merchants, since it is the people who must pay for the deceitful loans that the international agencies, banks and organizations grant to the traitorous liberal-military bourgeoisie.

We demand the participation of all patriotic Honduran sectors in decisionmaking, particularly in the decisions that affect our dignity and sovereignty. Lastly, we issue a call for reflection to the soldiers, NCO's, officers and lower-rank officers -- who, forced or deceived, defend the system, forgetting their social origins and the fact that their own relatives and the Honduran people are victims of the abuses and outrages committed by their own comrades in arms in other zones of the country when, along with their brother peasants and workers, they demand their rights.

Fatherland or death. We will win!

[Panama City ACAN Spanish at 1553 GMT on 19 September, in a report on the demands made by the Cinchonero guerrillas, cites those noted above and adds the following:

["The kidnappers...are demanding that the government abolish the anti-terrorist law" and demand "that Honduras leave the Central American Democratic Community, which also includes El Salvador and Costa Rica."]

COMMENTS ON GUERRILLAS' LIST OF 67 PRISONERS

PA191639 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1432 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Excerpt] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 19 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The cell of Cinchonero guerrillas who have been holding 86 persons hostage in the Chamber of Commerce building in this city in northern Honduras since Friday hopes to liberate 67 of its comrades, whom it describes as "political prisoners."

Thirty-six of those prisoners are Salvadorans, one is Guatemalan, one is Venezuelan, one is Ecuadorean and 28 are Hondurans.

The guerrillas have already delivered the list of people that they hope to exchange for the hostages to the authorities. Among the hostages are Finance Minister Arturo Corleto, Economy Minister Gustavo Alfaro and Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias Pineda.

The most prominent of the Salvadorans on the list is Alejandro Montenegro, a commander of the FMLN insurgent groups that are operating in the central part of El Salvador.

Montenegro's arrest was announced in San Salvador 5 days ago. He was reportedly arrested in a Tegucigalpa restaurant while meeting with a group of friends.

The guerrillas also want the children Gracias Armijo Reyes and Roberto Armando Cruz, who were taken by the police from houses in which the kidnappers of Honduran businessmen were arrested, and Teresa Serrano, whom they describe as the children's mother.

The Guatemalan prisoner is named Carlos Ramirez; the Ecuadorean, Jorge Manuel Morales and the Venezuelan Jorge Garcia.

The guerrillas' list includes several Hondurans whose relatives believe them to be dead, and others whose bodies have been positively identified, according to local news sources.

This is the case with Fidel Martinez, Tomas Nativi and Angel Manfredo Velasquez, who disappeared several months ago in various parts of the country.

Manfredo Velasquez disappeared in the southern part of the country and nothing more was ever heard about him.

The list also includes the names of Roberto Fino and Felix Martinez, both labor leaders, whose bodies were positively identified by relatives and the authorities.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS NEGOTIATIONS AT STANDSTILL

PA192156 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2118 GMT 19 Sep 82

[By Gustavo Rubi]

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 19 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- Honduran Government sources have said that the negotiations between the government and leftist guerrillas, who since yesterday have been holding more than 80 hostages in San Pedro Sula, have come to a standstill.

A government spokesman said that the military high command met with President Roberto Suazo Cordova to seek a way to end this deadlock while the hostages continue to be held in the Chamber of Commerce building.

The situation reached this point after the government-appointed mediators -- Jaime Brufau, bishop of San Pedro Sula and Hugo Alvarez, Venezuelan Embassy charge d'affaires -- reported that today no progress had been made during the talks that began yesterday with the guerrillas.

The hostages, most of them important businessmen and high-ranking government officials including Economy Minister Gustavo Alfaro and Finance Minister Arturo Corleto, were taken on Friday night by a group of guerrillas who occupied the San Pedro Sula -- second ranking city in Honduras -- Chamber of Commerce.

Gustavo Alfaro, one of the hostages, said that to this moment the guerrillas have released 23 hostages, pointing out that they were either sick women or Chamber of Commerce employees.

Alfaro said in a phone interview that except for three who were sick, the guerrillas were still holding all the business leaders. According to him, 83 hostages, including Central Bank President Gonzalo Carias, were still under the rebels' control.

In Nicaragua, BARRICADA today quotes "Commander Two," as saying that three soldiers were killed and three others were injured when guerrillas and soldiers exchanged shots yesterday morning.

The guerrillas inside the Chamber of Commerce building could not be reached by phone right away to confirm whether they had really made any statement for BARRICADA.

Meanwhile, the international ramifications of this hostage crisis seemed to have extended after the Red Cross announced here today that seven foreigners -- two Europeans and five Latin Americans -- were among the hostages.

The foreigners, all of them representatives of foreign companies, participated on Friday evening in a Chamber of Commerce conference at which both private sector leaders and Honduran officials discussed ways to resolve the country's economic crisis.

The Europeans have been identified as Bendeck Shubbert from Switzerland and Jose Luis Neira from Spain.

According to the Red Cross, a Mexican, Arnoldo Pineda Sandoval; a Guatemalan, Marcos Montezuma Davila; and three Chileans, Manuel Homero Morales, Omar Nasralla and Orlando Rojas Perez, were also among the hostages. None of the embassies here has released any communique on the efforts currently underway to put an end to the seizure.

The guerrillas participating in this operation have identified themselves as members of the Cinchonero people's liberation movement, the same group that in March 1981 also claimed credit for the hijacking of a Honduran commercial plane.

FUSEP CHIEF BALI CASTILLO COMMENTS ON CRISIS

PA192343 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2143 GMT 19 Sep 82

[Interview with Lt Col Daniel Bali Castillo, commander of the Honduran Public Security Forces -- live]

[Text] [Question] Colonel Castillo, could you tell the Honduran people through Radio America and Radio San Pedro, about the steps being taken to settle the crisis at the Cortes Chamber of Commerce? Do you expect the negotiating committee, made up of members of the Catholic Church and other sectors, to be successful?

[Answer] Correct, I think the negotiating committee in contact with the subversives will find a formula which could be recommended to the executive branch for the best possible solution of the crisis, and which may lead to the release of all our fellow countrymen who are being held hostage.

[Question] In your opinion, what measures do you consider advisable?

[Answer] I prefer not to advance any opinion as it could hinder the committee's negotiations with the government and subversives to settle the issue.

[Question] Any report about the negotiating committee, colonel, which is made up by the charge d'affaires of the Venezuelan Embassy and Monsignor Brufau of San Pedro Sula?

[Answer] Yes, I believe the arrival of the monsignor, who was in Nicaragua and who has been transferred to San Pedro Sula, marks his official participation. I believe he has already received the bulletin published by TIEMPO. Thus, I believe they will now settle down to analyze the situation and make the corresponding recommendations to the government.

[Question] Any probabilities for the release of other persons, more members of the Cortes Chamber of Commerce, since according to latest reports over 80 people are still being held at the Chamber of Commerce?

[Answer] I consider that as the negotiations advance, others may be released. Precisely, as government and people, we are primarily concerned over the gradual recovery of the hostages.

[Question] Concerning the guerrillas' demands, what is the position of the armed forces and the government? Are the political prisoners being released?

[Answer] On that we already said at the news conference that we definitely have no political prisoners. The other demands will have to be analyzed.

[Question] Is Montenegro, leader of the Salvadoran guerrillas, in Honduras or not?

[Answer] We have already explained very clearly that there is nobody in custody under that name. Therefore, we must state that we do not know if he is really in the country.

[Question] Then definitely there are no political prisoners, colonel?

[Answer] Definitely; there are no political prisoners.

[Question] What about the charges made by the leftist sectors about the existence of political prisoners?

[Answer] I believe that is part of their strategy. They always try to confuse the public opinion and affect us internationally because this whole campaign is well orchestrated and based on slanderous claims which are logically causing great harm to the country.

[Question] What about the demands made by the guerrillas?

[Answer] Again I prefer not to give any opinion at this moment as it could hinder the negotiations by confusing my personal opinion with that of the armed forces.

[Question] Any wounded soldiers?

[Answer] No, only the one that was wounded last night in the aggression against our units in our territorial waters in the Atlantic sector, where we suffered one casualty.

[Question] Anything you may wish to add for the Honduran people, Colonel, in this exclusive report following the news conference by the Honduran Armed Forces on the Cortes Chamber of Commerce events and on the condition of the hostages?

[Answer] I want to praise the efforts made by the media to keep the people informed on the developments at this moment of anxiety due to the crisis affecting the San Pedro Sula Chamber of Commerce. I want to assure the people that the government will be able to handle the situation so that all our fellow countrymen may return to their families. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE

PA200242 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 2051 GMT 19 Sep 82

[News conference held by Lt Col Daniel Bali Castillo, commander of the Public Security Forces, FUSEP, Amilcar Santa Maria (y Saldana), director of the Honduran Government International Press Office; other military authorities and officials at El Copan Sula Hotel in San Pedro Sula -- live telephone relay]

[Excerpts] [Bali Castillo] [Passage indistinct] The Modus operandi of this Cinchonero group that occupied the Chamber of Commerce, is almost identical to the Dash-7, and we honestly believe that this is the same Commander (Toribio) who carried out the operation at that time. His speech, modus operandi, and orders give us the impression that it could be the same subversive group. Regarding today's findings, all I can tell you is that unfortunately, I arrived from Tegucigalpa today; I met with the group that is accompanying me, and I am not aware if they were close to the place where the kidnapping occurred.

Let us speak the truth. Our country and our people have a democratic government. The people went to the polls and chose the government they wanted. We are being attacked by countries that really want to destabilize us, create chaos, so that democracy will fail. I believe that at this time there are only two countries in Central America that set the democratic example -- Costa Rica and Honduras. These people are using some Honduran citizens, who are really bad Hondurans trained in Nicaragua and Cuba, to export not only their revolution, but the way they operate. These people call themselves Cinchoneros, Lempira Command and other related names, always in an attempt to give the impression that they are very nationalistic when our people know that they have been trained and advised by men who are highly professional in these matters.

[Question indistinct]

[Santa Maria] Usually there are between 30 and 50 U.S. military advisers. These men are mostly old-friend teams, groups of men that come and go after they have trained others in specific subjects.

These men leave and don't return. At its peak, which was last year, there were 80 U.S. military advisers. This figure is quite small when compared to the 6,000 Cuban advisers in Nicaragua. I believe that figures must always be analyzed and compared. If we analyze them separately, then we cannot understand their value. It is not true that we have Israeli and Argentine advisers in Honduras. We only have U.S. advisers, and they are here because of a bilateral military aid agreement signed in (?1974). This agreement was approved by Congress for training and cooperation between the armies of the United States and Honduras. It is the same kind of agreement that the United States has with other countries in Europe and South America.

[Unidentified official] some measures such as moving the refugee camps away from the border areas -- as is the case of the Salvadorans -- have been taken. I believe that this measure has helped deal with the problem of which we are all quite aware.

[Question indistinct]

[Unidentified official] I believe that the latest figures indicated some 27,000 refugees, but this figure varies daily, especially lately with the migration of Miskitos from the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast.

[Excerpts] [Question indistinct]

[Callejas Bonilla] The names that you have mentioned are really none of my business; therefore, I will not expand on this, but I will point out the difference between a political prisoner and a common prisoner as we understand it. A political prisoner is one who is in prison because of the [word indistinct] political ideas and who has not been sent before the appropriate authorities. In the specific case of (Miguel Vaca), he is at the disposal of the republic's courts and a competent judge ordered his arrest. This was confirmed by the respective court of appeals. This is what I understand.

When I say that we have no political prisoners, it means that there is no one in our jails who has not been tried or who has not had a chance to defend himself in court.

[Question indistinct]

[Bali Castillo] [Passage indistinct] The Population and Immigration Policies General Directorate found that they had violated the laws of the country. They had no documents or they had false documents. If this is the case, then they are deported.

If they are caught breaking one of our country's laws, then they are sentenced. The list published in yesterday's bulletin -- there are some 22 lists -- there is a list published a few months ago that I could give to you at some other time. [sentence as heard]

However, for you to tell the truth in your country you should go to the Population and Immigration Policies General Directorate -- they are the ones that regulate immigration -- so that with your own eyes and with the list verify that the people named on the list have officially been deported.

[Question indistinct]

[Santa Maria y Saldana] [Passage indistinct] Obviously they would not be asking for the release of alleged Salvadoran prisoners if the members of the group that attacked were strictly Honduran and truly concerned about the internal matters of the country. I believe that the request for the release of alleged Salvadoran guerrillas is evidence of the interventionism of nonnational elements in Honduran internal affairs.

With all due respect, I am trying to make you aware that the difference between a list of 60 or a list of 62 is not as substantial as the truth of the matter. The truth of the matter is that they are trying to release from alleged and imaginary prisons people who are from other countries and who were here carrying out some type of activity that was probably not touristical or cultural. We are speaking of men with weapons who were probably involved in destabilizing activities, and this means that FMLN members have committed the crime of violating the sovereignty of this nation and acting against its stability. I believe that this is more the truth of the matter than whether they are asking for 60 or 62 people. [Words indistinct] we have to see this in its overall context and not get lost in the [words indistinct].

The members of the contact committee are the ones speaking to the men. Therefore, the details and exact requests are in the hands of the committee and not ours. We are here basically trying to inform you of our government's concern over this terrorist action, which is really political blackmail, and of the will that the government has in seeking a solution surrounded by respect, without violence and without military attacks, [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Callejas Bonilla] [Words indistinct] the Honduran Government is not aware of the request of the group of assailants. This document has not been officially given to the mediating committee and they are the only ones authorized to accept and process it. Therefore, if all we have to work with is a statement published by the press, we cannot decide on a policy at this time regarding events that have not occurred.

[Question indistinct]

[Callejas Bonilla] For us it is a bit risky to state exactly what will be done because we are dealing with people who use many indentities, who use several names and at certain times use one passport then another. There comes a time when it is almost impossible to know [words indistinct]. The claims regarding the allegedly arrested make it evident that there is some type of communication with the FMLN. Also, in the past, as Colonel Bali mentioned, they kidnapped banker [name indistinct] and industrialist [name indistinct]. There was also evidence that FMLN members supported these actions. Once the meeting has ended, we will distribute information on these incidents which [words indistinct] the FMLN have been involved in this kind of operation. [Passage indistinct]

I am referring to any type of negotiation. During this negotiation, it was decided that a committee would be appointed [words indistinct]. The apostolic nuncio arrived here at noon [words indistinct] and I don't believe that he could have yet, [words indistinct]. I would like to tell you that as long as that list is not handed to the committee, the government can take no action even though some have requested that [Passage indistinct].

The committee does not act on its own, it acts according to the instructions it receives from the government. Let us remember that [words indistinct] that you cannot ask a legally formed government to be at the mercy of a group of [word indistinct]. A negotiation is a benevolent measure that brings forth the government's desire for peace, but this desire must be subjected to the laws of the country.

[Question indistinct]

[Santa Maria] [Passage indistinct] Therefore, we don't have information regarding how the hostages will leave the building. Yesterday some women, workers and sick people were allowed to leave. Two of the injured were also transferred to the medical center. But I reiterate, this is a fruit borne from talks between the assailants and the contact committee. I am not informed on the matter and I am not authorized to make judgement.

If my opinion were requested, and it is not, I would say that any group of assailants would try to reduce the number of hostages to those that are strictly meaningful under specific conditions. These could be the ministers, the president of the Central Bank and perhaps some of the leaders of the businessmen. Nevertheless, I repeat: I am not informed whether other people will be released or [words indistinct]. I sincerely believe that any comments I could make regarding this would have no validity because I am not involved in the negotiations.

[Question indistinct]

[Santa Maria] [Words indistinct] frustration that it is not possible to find specific ways. Since I cannot make promises on behalf of the committee -- because I am not authorized to do this -- I can promise that I will talk with them. Nevertheless, I want to be honest with you, since I am talking with serious reporters; I don't want this to be interpreted as my promise that they will talk. I will ask them to do it, but the final decision will be up to them.

[Question indistinct]

[Santa Maria] Before this question is answered, I would like to make an announcement: As of tomorrow, we will have an information office here at this hotel at which we will offer briefings to all interested reporters, local as well as international. We invite you to use it. We will establish a fixed schedule. The office will be in the hotel lobby and we will be able to supply information as it happens.

I believe that all the questions have been answered. I can see that the colleagues are beginning to move around with a we'll see attitude. Therefore, on behalf of the international information office, I end the conference here, thanking you for your kindness for being here with us and inviting you to keep in contact because as of tomorrow we will be setting up a permanent office here at the hotel and will give as many briefings as circumstances allow. These will be short meetings, some 15 to 20 minutes long, and this will be for specific information. Therefore, I ask that you keep in contact with us and thank you for being here. I believe we could hold another meeting here tomorrow at approximately 1400.

NICARAGUA

PAPER CITES CLASH WITH COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES

PA170505 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 8 Sep 82 pp 1, 6

[Text] A permanent garrison for a counterrevolutionary battalion that managed to settle in the dense mountains of the Seven Benk waterfall [cano] area late in June has been completely destroyed. Enemy losses surpassed 120 during the operation, which lasted 17 days. During that time, the coordination of the air force with the ground forces was decisive, but there were also many heroic, self-sacrificing and bold actions by the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) patrols. These and other details that until today had not been published are included in a report made this weekend to Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, by Deputy Commander Ramon Masis Henriquez, chief of the EPS Fifth Military Region.

The silent invasion of this battalion -- as well as the invasion of two other battalions, one of which was destroyed a few days after the Seven Benk operation and which was located in the Tan-Kaban-Unta Mountains in the Sandy Bay region -- was part of the plans conceived by the counterrevolutionaries in Honduras to occupy Puerto Cabezas on 19 July in a military operation which according to them was not to have taken more than 72 hours.

It was Deputy Commander Masis -- a captain at that time -- who was one of the first to establish direct military contact with the Seven Benk counterrevolutionary unit. It occurred during an unexpected clash that placed his life in danger and caused the loss of our officers -- two dead and two wounded -- of his staff.

Information had already been received regarding a great concentration of members of the counterrevolution in that area, but 2 days of search -- 28 and 29 June -- around and on the Tilba and Yaya hills had ended in failure. It was then that Masis and his staff moved by helicopter to the Seven Benk plain, some 15 km distant, to try and confirm the reports of a prisoner, as well as those of a person who had infiltrated the ranks of "the counterrevolutionaries."

Deputy Commander Masis told Cordova Rivas that when they landed they saw a man running across the plain toward the mountain. "We took up our positions and sent the helicopter back to bring reinforcements. However, when the helicopter returned it was met with rifle fire and the first 18 soldiers were annihilated because by then the enemy had organized its defense in the area where the mountain and the plain meet. There were 100 or 120 men defending a front of approximately 300 meters; they had snipers posted atop trees who could hit their targets easily with their modern FAL rifles with telescopic sights.

"However, the combat lasted from 1100 to 1900, but the next morning we had a whole company there with orders to search and destroy. However, the virtual annihilation of the enemy occurred when they arrived at a rest camp they had prepared on Cerro Tungala. Only 34 survived the attack and still had enough wind to continue running until they reached a point known as Nazareth near the Miskito settlement of Truslaya. Once in Nazareth -- their feet swollen, wounds infected, not having eaten for a week -- the enemy was surrounded by one of our patrols taking part in the search operation. Only seven of our soldiers were needed to attack, and they were able to overcome the enemy except for two who were captured when they tried to enter the Truslaya settlement."

Deputy Commander Masis continued, saying that after 19 July, specific information regarding the location of a second counterrevolutionary battalion was received. This battalion was located in the Tan-Kaban-Unta Mountain, Sandy Bay region, but the helicopter was detected while it was landing troops 2 km from the area and the enemy had enough time to prepare its defense on the plain, making it more difficult to occupy the camp. This combat began at 1300, and at approximately 1900, the enemy was able to escape into the swamps. The enemy left one dead near the mountain and took at least four dead and many wounded with them.

The first EPS patrols were to reach the campsite 30 minutes later -- at approximately 1930 -- and the pursuit was difficult because of the darkness and the fact that the patrol did not know the area and chest-high mud made walking quite difficult.

This gave the enemy the chance to flee toward Honduras with the use of motor boats. They escaped via the coastal channels common in this area of northern Zelaya. Deputy Commander Masis said: Nevertheless, we are certain that many of the counterrevolutionaries were buried in the swamps [empantanados]. This was the end of the enemy camp that, according to the captured documents, was called "Dakura Numero Uno."

MEXICAN-VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE TERMED 'POSITIVE'

PA181846 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 18 Sep 82

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE) -- The new peace initiative for Central America proposed by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo has received a "positive" reply from Nicaragua.

So far there has been no official communique from the Sandinist government in response to the letter that the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela sent to President Ronald Reagan, seeking new ways to establish a dialogue in order to stop a war between Nicaragua and Honduras. Nevertheless, Managua's newspaper BARRICADA, the voice of the FSLN, published an unofficial report today saying that the Nicaraguan junta has already responded "positively" to the efforts to promote peace in Central America exerted by the Venezuelan and Mexican heads of state.

Although the contents of the answer are still not fully known -- as is also the case with the letter from Herrera Campins and Lopez Portillo, secretly written during a meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers in Cancun, Mexico -- is was said that Nicaragua admits that the letter "is important for the future of peace in Central America."

The Mexican and Venezuelan Governments called upon President Reagan -- with a copy to Nicaraguan Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega and Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova -- to "find ways, which are still open, to stop the current escalation or the increase of tension between Nicaragua and Honduras and the dangerous possibilities as to the outcome of this crisis." It has been learned here that the Honduran Government is studying the combined Venezuelan and Mexican diplomatic action; it was anticipated that Suazo Cordova will suggest that any peace initiative must include his plan "to internationalize peace" in the area.

EL NUEVO DIARIO, a pro-Sandinist paper published in this capital, carries a frontpage editorial asking President Reagan "to reflect," taking into consideration the voices that have been raised to prevent the Honduran and Nicaraguan people from being victims "of an absurd conflagration."

"Nicaragua is not tired and will not grow tired of knocking at all doors that can lead to peace, despite the high price that it has been paying in the lives of its patriots for taking this thorny path," the editorial noted. There have been constant border and diplomatic incidents between Nicaragua and Honduras and various bilateral and international attempts to reduce these tensions have been fruitless.

TOP OFFICIALS ATTEND LIBYAN ANNIVERSARY EVENT

PA190157 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra and Junta Member Rafael Cordova Rivas attended the reception that the People's Office of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah held yesterday on occasion of the 13th anniversary of the antifeudal and anti-imperialist revolution in that African country. The fraternal reception was held at Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center last night. It was attended by Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy, Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman, ambassadors and other personalities.

In his speech, Ibrahim Muhammad Farhat, secretary of the Libyan People's Office, praised the close ties which unite the two nations and which have increased after the victorious 19 July 1979 when, like Libya, we established a people's revolutionary power in our country. On behalf of Nicaragua, Cordova Rivas thanked the Libyans for their hospitality.

CHILE

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT EXPLAINS FINANCIAL PLANS

PY172114 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Excerpts] The Central Bank has announced its economic-financial program until the end of the year. It is prepared to lose reserves up to the amount of $550 million. This information was given by Central Bank President Carlos Caceres. During a press conference, he said that dollars for importers will be available at the preferential exchange rate of 50 pesos to meet their obligations with foreign countries. According to estimates made by Caceres, at the worst, this will lead to a loss of reserves of $350 million in September and $200 million during the rest of the year.

He explained that the Central Bank will sell about $13 million per day by bidding during the rest of the year. In September, however, the daily average amount will be $20 million. Through this, it is expected that there will be a considerable slump in the dollar price, terming the current dollar price abnormal. He said that the Central Bank will return to the market all the pesos it receives through the dollar sales, thus giving liquidity to the economy. He added that the exchange rate should insure a profit on exports and that a good rate for this is 55 to 60 pesos. He asserted, however, that there will be no change in the policy of a free exchange rate. He also explained that the dollars sold by bidding are generated by the exports of the state companies, particularly the copper exports. He stressed, however, that the loss of reserves will be termporary.

PARAGUAY

PRESIDENT STROESSNER NOMINATED FOR REELECTION

PY181743 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] A special national convention of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party, today nominated Gen Alfredo Stroessner as its presidential candidate for the 1983-1988 constitutional period. Saul Gonzalez, justice minister and member of the Colorado Party Executive Board, has officially announced the nomination.

PERU

ULLOA CABINET EARNS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

PY181557 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Text] Lima, 17 Sep (AFP) -- By a majority vote, the Peruvian Chamber of Deputies this afternoon gave a vote of confidence to the cabinet of Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa after 22 hours of uninterrupted questioning.

A sheet of questions on the economic policy, terrorism and corruption were submitted by the Peruvian American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) and endorsed by the Marxist left.

Last night over a period of more than 2 hours the prime minister answered these questions and said that both employment and salaries have improved, that terrorism will be eradicated and that corruption is being fought. Since this was the first questioning of the cabinet during the 25 months of constitutional rule, the session was closely followed by the people, who heard the speeches over radio and television.

Amid the cheers of their supporters, APRA and Marxist leaders, who make up the oppositton, questioned the government policy, which was defended by ministers and spokesmen of the ruling parties, Popular Action and the Popular Christian Party, which have an absolute majority.

TERRORISTS CAPTURE RADIO, AIR MESSAGE IN HUANTA

PY171520 Paris AFP in Spanish 0252 GMT 15 Sep 82

[Text] Lima, 15 Sep (AFP) -- Members of the Shining Path extremist group today captured a radio station in the city of Huanta, 400 kilometers southeast of Lima, and forced the station workers to air subversive messages, it was learned here tonight. The group broke into Radio Esperanza de Los Andes and forced its manager, Bertha Diaz, to broadcast a message calling for armed struggle and threatenting the police with avenging the death of their comrades. When the police arrived at the station, the extremists had already fled.

VENEZUELA

COSTA RICA'S VOLIO SUPPORTS ESSEQUIBO CLAIM

PA181927 Paris AFP in Spanish 2133 GMT 17 Sep 82

[Text] San Jose, 17 Sep (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government could mediate in the dispute between Venezuela and Guyana over the Essequibo territory, according to a statement made yesterday in Caracas by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio, which was reproduced here by LA NACION. Volio met with Venezuelan President Luis Herrera and with his Venezuelan colleague, Jose Alberto Zambrano, to both of whom he reiterated Costa Rica's support for the Venezuelan Government in its demand.

The Costa Rican foreign minister is currently on an official visit -- for "strictly political" reasons -- to Venezuela, a country he described as "an exemplary democracy, whose presence in Central America and the Caribbean is necessary."

"Costa Rica is willing to cooperate at the United Nations or at any other forum to see Venezuela succeed in its aspirations," Volio declared in Caracas, according to the LA NACION report.

Cites Country's Problems

PA180827 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0123 GMT 18 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Caracas, 17 Sep (LATIN-REUTER) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio affirmed today that unrest prevails along his country's border with Nicaragua in view of Sandinist incursions into Costa Rican territory. He stated in a press conference that that situation has caused relations between the two countries to grow "tense". Volio talked to newsmen shortly before holding a second meeting with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano within the framework of a 2-day working visit to Venezuela.

The Costa Rican foreign minister also accused the Sandinist army of hindering navigation on the San Juan River despite various protests that have been filed. "My country's rights are undermined by Nicaraguan military provisions that openly violate the treaty" of arbitration of 1888, he stated.

He indicated that the new Costa Rican Government that took office around the middle of this year does not agree with the idea of creating a Central American economic community together with Honduras and El Salvador. "My country does not agree with certain clauses that imply a military alliance and the establishing of a Central American common market parallel to the European Common Market," he said. However, Volio stated that the foreign ministers of the three countries agreed in July on the need to meet again to discuss the topic.

At the same time, he indicated that the creation of an alliance of countries to reaffirm and defend democracy, which will represent governments born of "honest and authentic" electoral processes, is being studied. Of the five Central American countries, Nicaragua and Guatemala are the only ones that have not held popular elections to elect their government leaders.